

1D10 / Sara Parsons 1910-1920

-12 - Correspondence

b- From SEP to Helen Wood, France 1917-1919



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association

Correspondence

P. E. Parsons to Helen Wood ©
World War I

Excerpts & notes

#1 - Mrs. Whiteside ? died Miss Parsons says it must
Jan. 8, 1918 be hard for Mrs. Vaughan - she always thought
of the two as sisters.

#2 - ^a
Jan 25, 1918

"All this makes me feel our school must be put on
a perfectly sound financial basis & I
wish it might be the first to be so established."

(n.d.) b.

"I am glad if Mass. is going to lead in at least
one good movement that concerns nurses."

#3 ~~no material~~ "It is quite like you to martyrize
~~the #~~ yourself yet another several months and as I do
truly think it would be a good thing for the school for
me to rest & brush up if I am to go back to it, ""

Parsons to Wood Correspondence
Nov. 10, 1917

1917 #1

"As it is only by keeping a high standard that we can attract good & highly educated women, I hope you & Mr. Foster will hang on like grim death to your ideals. I know just how solidly Dr. Howland stands with you & I wish you would tell him I appreciate what you all are doing."

Dec. 7, 1917

1917 #2

"I am very much ashamed of the children that they should behave so and I think the time has come when you need to do what I have always found necessary when first taking a new position, there have always been some who could not understand (over)

a patient regime & who would take
advantage of a mild disciplinarian
until something drastic happened.

" Don't hesitate a minute to make an
example of some one or two or three if necessary.

" Drop Miss Bacon, by all means, and if I had
Miss Galt to deal with I should write her mother
about her misdeemeanor & tell her you are going
to do it - suspend her long enough to make her
thoroughly anxious & then if she promises
to behave give her another chance.

" I think she is good stuff - but climbing
in windows is not to be tolerated!

" I think it is not as easy to get away with
that sort of thing as it once was as there
are some who have the self-governing
spirit. P Please feel quite at liberty
(more)

Parsons → Wood Nov 10, 1917

1917 #1a

to abolish student government if you prefer
to do so and don't feel hampered about
using any method that you wish
in the conduct of the school. "

" Congratulations on the cooking! It will be
a joy not to have ward & night nurses
off for that course. "

Smoking - not much of an issue in this unit
so no rule made as yet. The secretary smokes freely &
often & uses much slang & mild profanity
Gosh! damn - Miss Parsons had never been
associated with any people like this.

Corresp. Parsons to Wood

(2)

#4 SP see carefully #wood does not want to stay on

3 Jan. 1919

#5 Nov. 20, 1918

"I am calling most of the nurses by their first names and it seems a lot more human & friendly."

"If I should get up courage to go back after a rest ~~and~~ some brushing up, would you stay with me? Of course I loved my work but I just seem to have lost my "pep" and all self-confidence."

"You don't say a word about taking my place!"

#6 Dec. 14, 1918

"If the Trustees won't let me have the necessary time to get in shape to take the school again, I shall either resign outright or go back temporarily - much depending on you. Ever since I came over here, except for about 3 months split up into periods of 3 or 4 weeks, I have had a cough or cold - bronchial temp of 102 just recently."

(over)

"I wrote Col. W. (Washburn) recently that our school was no job for a played out, devitalized old woman"

"Bottled up as I have been, I dread to think what is going to happen when the lid is taken off."

Corresp. Parsons to Wood

3

1918 - #2

Oct. 29
postmark

"Our statistics as to numbers of patients per nurse would stagger you but our advantage is in not having a TR. Sch. to run. There was a time when I tho't differently. I looked about, & saw food teaching material etc. & felt it was being wasted without students but now my greatest comfort is that my staff tho' only half as large as ~~it~~ when I started is a graduate staff and a very good one."

"I think you must have had superhuman strength given you or you never could have kept up under the strain you have borne."

"It used to almost put me out of business (over)"

to have one nurse on the D.L. and if it is any
comfort for you to know it, I want to tell you that I
never could have accomplished what you have.
I was practically at the end of my strength
when I left and over here I have had
an easy time compared with anything I ever
did before ... "

"I wish you would settle down for keeps at the GH
- you ought to have a L.O.A. before you break
down - but for me - old & tired as I
shall be after this war, the idea of
taking up that work again seems
preposterous."

"I love the school better than
anything as you know & that is one
reason why I want you to stay. I
would love to work for it from the
outside."

(see next card)

Parsonst^WWood 1918 - #2 cont'd

3a

"Many thanks for the history papers, they are very interesting & much better than the seniors could have written 4 or 5 years ago. I am charmed to hear of the quality of the probs. & the no. of C. G. in spite of our 3 year requirement. The only thing that you exact that I do not thoroughly rejoice in is the 20 yr. limit. Feeling that it is character & breeding that count most of all, I am sure you will lose some splendid girls by rejecting all the 19 yr. olds. All of them cannot afford to keep on in school or college & will go elsewhere. Among our most valued graduates are many who entered in their 20th year ... among the best ... in health, judgment, disposition, and ability." (over)

"Of course, even I wouldn't wish the whole school composed of infants but so many of them have been a joy and a comfort to me that my heart goes out to them & I should personally never reject one on the score of age alone if she had all the other desirable attributes."

"I think you have built up a wonderful staff and the support of such women will help you to win out even in the face of this awful epidemic."

Corresp. Parsons to Wood

4

3 - 1918 June 25 postmark written June 7, 1918

Item: Reaction to Miss Goodrich's proposal of Army School of Nursing

Item: Congratulations on H Wood's address published in T. S. Report "... emphasized

Item: the important facts that I have so much at heart. You were certainly born for the place."

Item: "How is Miss Sullivan getting on? I am pleased to see that she follows up the conventions and it seems as if Miss Friend & Miss Johnson were making dents. It is fine to watch the younger generation coming on."

Corresp Parsons to Wood

5

#4 - 1918 July 15

Hen

" I am surprised to see that you took in fewer probes than we had in 1916. Was it because there wasn't room anymore? With the Phillips House & the war demands I should think you would have to make your three classes very large this year.

Hen

" I am amazed that Sally J. can be spared from her own job - but I think it will be very interesting to start the first school & I hope Mrs. McCreas will have the honor of teaching the first class."

Did Miss Goodrich convert you to Military Tr. S.?

Corresp Parsons to Wood

1/20/1918

Letter: to the Nursing Staff

Dear Graduates, Student Nurses & Probationers

~~and~~ the idea is detestable that some of you are leaving
and I am not there to say good-bye or to
wish you good luck and to talk over your
plans with you

that has always been such a pleasant
part of my privileges as your superintendent.
When Jan. 10 came

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Blue Envelope Authorized by

Paragraph 10, G.O. No. 13

Must not be used for money or valuables. Cannot be registered. Not to be censored regimentally but liable to censorship at the Base.

I certify that the enclosed letter or letters refer to personal or family matters only, and that they contain no reference to military or other matters forbidden by censorship regulations.

(Name) *Sara E. Parsons*

Rank

Countersigned:

N. K. Shumaker

Rank

Captain

SOLDIER'S LETTER.

Dec. 7, 1917

#2

More than one letter may be sent in this envelope. In this case, it should be addressed, "Base Censor."

Address only.

Miss Helen Wood

Mass. General Hospital

Massachusetts

Boston, U.S.A.



Vassar

Cutting this coupon
for college &

1 SHOULD THINK IT WOULD RESULT IN AN AWARD LESS

are we holding our own on # & finally
Yours apptals

Tree HL 601A Fletcher
considerable may allow in a year for that 3 weeks!!

Still as by

Major -

Gal Measur γ to Egg

Camille Hal to Eng died x Lander Ct Ha.

Am 21. - Martesbe

Rose Butler 1906 - Temp Chf 0 - 1906 A. J. 70

End May 15

[illegible]

CG 0 - 1968
 AS 1st Major A.
 1st Lt 1969
 of the wood acted as Pickering 70
 was killed in
 Lehigh Pennell Mass
 TC Sgt Faulkner
 TS M

1913 TC Sglt Cpl
14-Ast TS Wgt
1917- Asts Sglt Recruit C
Maj Wm X
5m, empty, accurate
no - random
Wm
P28

Nurse Fletcher Was Radcliffe Girl

CONCORD, N. H.—Lucy H. Fletcher, a nurse of this city, whose death was reported in today's casualty list, went to the front last July and had been attached to a base hospital. Relatives here were advised recently that she was ill with meningitis, which caused her death.

Miss Fletcher, who was 32 years old, was born in England, but had lived in this country for 16 years. After finishing her course at St. Mary's school here she was graduated from Radcliffe College, and studied for three years at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. A brother, Vivian F. Fletcher, is with the American forces in France. Her mother and one sister reside in England, and two sisters in the United States.

Nurse Fletcher Was Radcliffe Girl

CONCORD, N. H.—Lucy H. Fletcher, a nurse of this city, whose death was reported in today's casualty list, went to the front last July and had been attached to a base hospital. Relatives here were advised recently that she was ill with maninsitis, which caused her death.

Miss Fletcher, who was 32 years old, was born in England, but had lived in this country for 16 years. After finishing her course at St. Mary's school here she was graduated from Radcliffe College, and studied for three years at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. A brother, Vivian F. Fletcher, is with the American forces in France. Her mother and one sister reside in England, and two sisters in the United States.



Cosden & Co.....	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Emerson Phono	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3
Emma Cons	3-16	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eureka	1 9-16	1 11-16
Federal Oil	2 $\frac{7}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$
Glenrock	3 $\frac{7}{8}$	4
Goldfield Cons	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5-16
Green Monster	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hanover	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hecla	4 13-16	4 $\frac{7}{8}$
Howe Sound	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jerome Verde	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	11-16
Jumbo Extension...	8	10
Kerr Lake	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Lake Boat	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{7}{8}$
Magma	34	36
Marsh Mining	4	6
McKinley Darragh..	39	42
Midwest Oil	102	104
Midwest Refining...	115	116
Nixon Nevada	73	75
Oklahoma Prod	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Okmulgee	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{5}{8}$
Peerless	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Penn Kentucky	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

Lucy Fletcher's
grave at
Bordeaux -

[Taken by Sara E. Parsons]

Letter (incomplete) from
Miss Parsons, Chief Nurse
Base Hospital #6
to
Miss Helen Wood, M. G. A.

Account of trip by boat from
New York to Bordeaux, and
the conditions met there on
arrival.

Pages missing so none of
end of letter

Miss Parker's letters written to
her assistants at home when
she went to France as chief nurse
of Base Hospital #6 during 1st world
war.



Address for letters -

90 U. S. Base Hospital No. 6
Amer. Expeditionary
S. E. P.
Force.
France.

Where we are -

L'Hopital Complémentaire
No. 25

Bordeaux, France

Dear Miss Wood:-

It is going to be difficult to write a satisfactory letter for the Quarterly because we are not yet at work and some of the things that you will all want to know it is forbidden to write. I hope you have received

my steamer letters which were few but intended for all.

We had a lovely passage over but it had many surprises. I had expected to go directly to France but soon learned that we were headed for Liverpool. Of course we then felt sure we were going via London, so imagine our surprise when we put in at Queenstown, not knowing whether we should land or not. attractive

We were in that lovely harbor a day so near the City yet so far! but on a

lovely Sunday afternoon we sailed
away for Liverpool where a train
was waiting to take us directly to
Southampton where we found a
hospital ship waiting to take us on
to Le Havre! Well, of course we were
good soldiers and were glad that
it was possible to go on to our field
of labor without unnecessary delay.
We slept in the wards and had a
very smooth passage across the
much dreaded Channel.

At Havre we found a picturesque
little city which we enjoyed for 2
days. We were fortunate in being
entertained by the Sisters of St. Vincent
de Paul at the hospital of Jeanne
d'Arc. Originally it was a school
for orphans but converted into a hos-
pital during the war.

It was evacuated in favor of the
nurses & the ladies of the local
Red Cross Chapter helped the nurses
put it in order. We were accom-
panied by the nurses of the Hethcote
Unit (Harper Hospital) & so we were
a large delegation. We lived in
two houses either side of rue Jeanne
d'Arc and I wish you could see the
pretty enclosed courts and the
attractive salle à manger chapel
with flags and the tables decorated
with lovely flowers.

The nurses again slept in wards.

Perhaps you know that the Detroit men
were on Ellis Island with us a few days.
We sailed one day ahead of them. They
landed at Plymouth & joined us on the
boat that took us across the Channel.
They were expecting to leave L'Harve
the day after us to go to Higon.
We had a long hot journey coming to
Bordeaux & arrived at midday - the
hottest of the season - am told it was
108° and it felt that way.

Busses were waiting to bring us out
to the hospital which is in Salence
about one mile out of the city.
The people here had not been told we
were coming until about 9 that morn-
ing & they had to evacuate wards
for us, so you can imagine it was
hard for them & hard for us - It was
so hot & we were so tired & dirty &
a few were sick - Beds were not made
& things were upset generally. Again
the nurses were (and still are) in
wards to which they are now quite
accustomed. We shall no doubt
be able to have better arrangements
when Mr. Washburn takes over the
hospital or his part of it. We don't
know yet what is going to happen.
The place is beautiful! It is right
on the Car line situated in the
loveliest woods. There are accom-
modations for 1500 pts & I believe
& at present there are Frenchmen,
Chinese and Singalese. The

latter are the blackest creatures
you ever saw.

We did not go on duty until
Sunday and then only for 2 or 3
hours to observe. The hospital is
being evacuated & many of the
wards are now empty & several of
the nurses have been sent to other
places. They sometimes have

very sick pts. here & get them only
4 days from the front & strange as
that seems as we are so far south.

I think the french sisters
feel badly about leaving - many of
them have been here one or two years.

They do very good surgical work &
we see some splendid results from
their reparative ~~work~~ operations -

The possibilities here are wonderful.
If Major Washburn gets full control
we shall have (I hope) a model
hospital. It used to be a boys school.

The french have given their best
accommodations to the English &
it seems as if the Americans were
going to fare the same way.

I haven't seen anything of the div-
astated portion of France but one
observes instantly how every thing
is changed. There are no able
bodied young men to be seen any
where except in uniform -

Women on the street cars (during
their work well too) young boys
assisting in the shops and help.

Dear Miss Wood:-

I have read with great joy about the Home Guard Nurses. I am glad if Mass. is going to lead in at least one good movement that concerns nurses.

Am rather sorry that a British subject should be the first nurse in America to get a commission but if that proves to be the case perhaps it is just as we had to look to England in the beginning for guidance in L. S. Ch. organization. If Miss Eden gets the first Commission I shall be selfish enough to be glad that it is a grad. of our School who comes off

tho honor.

According to a Boston paper I
saw yesterday Miss Hall is a
grad. of the P. B. B. But it
funny?

This is a beautiful morning.
Quite winter but bright & sunny.
The weather has been wonderful
for two weeks now.

Am waiting on tip-toes to
hear about graduation.

Tell Miss Merrill it is about
time she answered my
letter. Love to all -

O.K.
1/5

Yours faithfully,

Sara E. Purvins

Enclosed letter may have some-
thing for Quarterly. Miss L. is with
Childs' Bureau now.
Delighted to see the Quarterly.

U.S. (Dare) Hospital #6
C. E. F. France
% Major F. A. Washburn
Via New York

My very dear Sallie Johnson:-
I never thought it would be
so long before I should answer
your delightful letter and I can
never hope to answer it in kind.
I think you and Amy Miller
now monopolize the almost lost
art of letter writing.

Do you remember Miss Lowner?
She is one of the Secretaries in our
Unit & she enjoys some of the
local news from your quarters.
Probably you have heard from Miss
Hall about our "Grand" visit in
Paris! I met her at the station &
"believe me" no two people were ever
more glad to see each other.

She has been through a harrowing expe-
rience and needed the change
very much in spite of the fact

that she never looked better. We had four delightful days before she saw me off.

She has been excessively busy since her return & I have only had one short letter. For ten days after that Paris trip all France was afflicted with ten very cold stormy days. It is supposed our unit ought to be much more comfortable but we find the cold very penetrating & there is no heat on in the hospitals and the Annex in which the patients and nurses live at present is next the ground & very loosely constructed so that nurses who have lived in shacks during the winter say they have never been colder. We have oil stoves but you should see the way we are piling on the clothes. Our officer as to coats has nothing on us. Fortunately we are situated so we can buy anything we need - some of the units are not so well situated.

The health of the nurses has been remarkably good but some are now off duty with heavy colds, but no more than we should have at home.

We are having a very good time - our discomforts are far out balanced by the advantages of our environment. We still think we have a fine unit and considering how we have been jumbled up together there has been very little friction. We are trying to improve our opportunities and if Miss Hall has written to you I am sure I don't need to mention my "French" - she promised to set it forth in a way that I am sure you will appreciate.

Imagining that she did not know quite as much as I, I improved my opportunities to practice while with her, with fearful & wonderful results.

There are many places of historic interest in this neighborhood that we ought to visit before we leave France and I hope we don't put our trips off too long.

Our work at present, is much like that of any civil hospital without the usual conveniences to work with, but not bad compared with many other extemporized hospitals.

Some of our friends are away all the time. Mr. Cabot who has been the back bone of our social life is away for an indefinite time in connection with the relief work among the refugees.

We try to make our own exile from family & friends as agreeable as possible. Afternoon tea is served daily. We have dances Thursday evenings & last night was in celebration of Halloween & it was easy to forget for awhile that we were not at home. When Mr. C. is here we have had weekly lectures on current events. Saturdays there is always a movie show & the men usually give a weekly entertainment. The great event last week - no this week - was a visit from General Pershing!

It came as a surprise on Sunday 2.
p.m. Rumor has it that the
C.O. (Major Washburn) was either
having a nap or looking over
the neighboring estate with
Madame X. The three Lieuten-
ants who were found were
en negligée - The Adjutant polish-
ing his platters - The others half
asleep.

It is said when the Adjutant
had scrambled into his clothes
& presented himself to the great
man he replied in answer
as to the whereabouts of the
C.O. "That he was on the next
estate with Mrs. X."

The C.O. when found, in his
excitement profoundly saluted
the Lieutenant-Colonel before
saluting the General.

I don't think the confusion had
entirely subsided when the pro-
cession reached the Nurses'
Quarters because to my horror,

Major W - opened the door of one of the nurses' dormitories without waiting for me to precede him & see if it was a suitable time for inspection. As it was a ward without screens or curtains of any kind it was an agonizing moment for me, until I learned that all the nurses were out.

The doctors all looked like so many wooden Indians in their endeavor to be absolutely correct from the standpoint of military etiquette.

Genl P. exchanged a few remarks with me & I was dying to tell him that his wife was a fellow friend of my father's & that I dined with her once & was awfully sorry about her tragic death. He wasn't prepared however to say anything under the circumstances & just as well of course.

Sometimes I want to tell you about meeting General Edwards before I left Boston.

That is a story worth while, but too long to write.

You have no doubt heard about the death of Jessie Belais' fiancé - isn't it sad! She was expecting him for a few days "leave" from the front when the news came of his death.

She seems to have stood up under the stress of 3 years work near the front wonderfully well but now with this personal sorrow I wonder if she can go on to the end of the war. And the end! When will it come? The news from Italy is so discouraging now that any faint hope of a declaration of peace this winter has quite vanished.

Oh! I must tell you that I had tea recently with Mrs. Anna Hamilton who organized the first school for nurses in France. & she took me over her nice little hospital & over

a furnished beds. Her nurses are very nice looking & she has a very good up-to-date school.

My only criticism is that she attempts to teach all branches including the different domestic departments in 2 years. The pupils have to pay for their living expenses & get no allowance.

She was much interested to know I got her thesis on nursing in America where she says she cannot get a copy herself.

Occasionally home people call on us & I saw a number of old pupils in Rio.

My hand is nearly paralyzed, as this is my third letter and it is all getting late so I must say good night. If you don't hear anything again before Xmas ^{Christmas} please accept my best love ^{with} all good wishes for the holiday season. I am very proud of the work you are doing & I hope you will sometime be at the head of our own school unless a better fate awaits you.



"Visé,, M. Sterckmans.

Base Hospital #6
 C. E. F. France
 Co Major F. C. Washburn
 November 10, 1917

Dear Miss Wood: -

An interesting letter was
 rec'd yesterday from Annabelle
 by Miss Emery. She gave us
 Federal details about the Country
 Fair and it made me think I
 ought to tell you that most of our
 letters are a month getting here
 and boxes ought to be sent over
 early. Major W. is sending off his
 Xmas things now.



I also recommend that you
 do not send all the Xmas in

one box but divide it up & send on
different boats. I know of 3 boxes
that are on the way to me none of
which have yet been recd.
I haven't lost hope because it is
easily possible that they have
been sent to some other unit.

Some canned alcohol & some Geo.
Washington Coffee would be very
acceptable. If you get anything
for me personally please send
the bill to my sister.

I wish you would tell Miss
Holliver that her Serno lamp
comes in very handy. Many
times we can't get any gas &
in an emergency it is a great
comfort to be able to get boiling
water quickly.

Everything I brought with me has
been ^{except my pen, ink, & stamps} useful, and we have had to
buy lots of warm clothing.

The cold is very penetrating and
we have no heat in the wards ^{or our quarters} except
what we can get from small
oil stoves. The our officers

we have open fireplaces or stoves.

In mine there is a little coal
stove and my office is both
comfortable & attractive. Miss



"Ypres,, A. Bastien.

Morrell will tell you about it if she gets my letter. As it is the only sitting room I have I am trying to make it home like.

Miss Refuse who is housekeeper has an office across the hall.

As detachments are sent away from us all the time we are constantly changing. New officers are sent to us for awhile & then they mysteriously disappear.

The last group that came back were at or near the front during their last drive & they had a very thrilling and interesting experience.

A Club for American Women has been opened by the Red Cross in Paris in which the nurses are invited to stop when they



are there.

Of course we are now worried about Italy & the possibility of an invasion by the South of France. We do hope to hear soon that Germany has been checked. We rejoice in the news from the North of France.

We find that many of the soldiers get over here without packages & books so if you want to send any of those articles in the Xmas box, I think we can dispose of them where they will do good & be appreciated.

Miss Fiske (Aid) & three other young women called yesterday en route for Relief work. Amy Miller's sister is over here in Paris and Miss Nichols has gone to the front & I had a nice time with her when I was in Paris.

I don't think I told you that one night when Miss Hall & I went to the theatre and were enjoying a piquant French farce when when I turned us off in the second row from the stage but Mr. Curtis President of the P.B.B.H. He was all alone in Naval uniform.

He took us home & met us at tea the next day and carefully explained that he was brushing up his French which he did not



"Charleroi", P. Paulus.

understand very well.
 Miss Lotter is leaving the Amer. Ambulance & is going to join the Canadian Army Nurse Corps. She has done splendid work over here & is going to be decorated & hear. It is also said that all nurses who have been a year or more with the British Army are going to have some kind of recognition.
 Hazel Marshall is off on an interesting expedition with about 6 doctors & six nurses, who are doing a kind of glorified district work in one of the devastated parts of France.
 Last Sunday p.m. I had an interesting time with ce. Refugee who is teaching in a city school here. She took me about the old parts of the city where we



Saw houses of the time of Louis XV & Louis XVI.

Tomorrow I am going to call on a French major & his wife whom I met through Miss O'Lorman. The latter is away now with Major Cabot who has been loaned for Relief work. Wait he got a lot of material for another book!

We miss him & hope they will both be returned as soon as we get very busy here. Miss Loozy has also been loaned & is with Major C. & Miss O'Lorman.

Opera is going on in our nearby city & the Nurses went last night & that is wonderful.

Don't you think the pictures are pretty on this paper. I think they are worth framing.

All the news from the Hospital has been shared and very much appreciated.

Please give my love to all enquiring friends - I hear all sorts of complimentary things about your administration & I hope you are enjoying the work as well as I did. They are very glad you are holding the school up to a high standard & having good applicants. I was charmed with Miss Kletus



School song. It makes me very happy to think the reputation of the school is safe for years to come in the hands of such women as we are graduating. If you want to give the graduating class a message from me I can think of nothing better to send.

As it is only by keeping a high standard that we can attract good & highly educated women I hope you & Mr. Foster will hang on like grim death to your ideals. I know just how solidly Mr. Howland stands with you & wish you would tell him & appreciate what you are all doing. At home & say that Mrs. Howland might be jealous if she knew how many of the nurses adore her husband. His past dinner time so adieu.
Love & c. p. W. R. Robt 1st Lieut





Huy: Le Passeur. Bois d'A. Delstanche.

U. S. Base Hospo. No. 6
Dec. 7, 1917

My dear Miss Wood:-

Your 6th letter

Reached me a week after the 7th.

I was much interested in the contents and truly sympathetic with your troubles.

I am very much ashamed of the children that they should behave so and I think the time has come when you need to do what I have always found necessary when first taking a new position.

There have always been some who could not understand a patient régime and who would take

advantage of a mild discipline ^{discipline} until something drastic happened.

Don't hesitate a minute to make an example of some one or two or three if necessary.

Drop Miss Bacon by all means and if I had Miss Galt to deal with I should write her mother about her misdeemeanors & tell her you are going to do it - suspended her long enough to make her thoroughly conscious and then if she promises to behave give her another chance.

I think she is good stuff. but climbing in windows is not to be tolerated!

I think it is not as easy to get away with that sort of thing as it once was as there are some who have the self-governing spirit.

I was very sorry to hear about Ch. St. Stealing. That is one thing that never used to happen there strange as it always seemed.

Please feel quite at liberty to abolish student government if you prefer to do so and don't



Dinant: Paysans Wallons. Bois d'A. Delstanchs

I feel hampered about using any method that you wish in the conduct of the school.

"It seems as if we were settling down here for nothing less than 2 years and perhaps for more.

I can't feel as if I were ever going back to the M. S. H. to stay. It shall be much too passé.

Major Washburn feels much the same way, but he doesn't think either of us ought to make any decisions now.

I heard today that the Sisters are giving up the Childrens Hospital & that Miss Smith

moves into Sister Caroline's place.
La voila!

Your clippings were very interesting and better than papers which take up so much room. "The 6th of Dec. was celebrated by the installation of stoves in the Nurses' quarters and now Major W. says he desires to put one in the officers' mess.

I can tell you we appreciate warmth for once. For the first time since I can remember I look forward to spring even with summer on its heels.

You can imagine the discomfort of getting up with 16 or 17 other people in the room with the temp. at or near freezing point. No hot water & no warm room to go to.

Major W. let us have as many little oil stoves as we wanted & they work nicely in the small rooms where 4 or 5 of us sleep, but they didn't make much impression in the dormitories & they had to be watched every minute because they smoked.

It is difficult to get things & we have been delayed because the elbows of the pipes didn't come.



Gand: Beguines sur le Quai aux Herbes. Bois d'A. Delstanche.

Several people have had chilblains & very bad colds & bronchitis. The bug seems to be specially vicious. Miss Whiscol has been ill a long time but seems a little better now.

Misses Emery & Fletcher both succumbed & Miss F. had an op. on her nose. It is hoped she will not take cold so easily now & that her headaches will be relieved.

Miss E. is much better but is not allowed to leave the ward.

We have our sick officers & nurses on the 2nd floor of the Lycée in adjoining rooms.

There are as yet no toilet conveniences nearer than the quarters where the well officers live so

altho' the wards are very pleasant
& comfortable it is hard to do the work
in them. Five other nurses are now
on the sick list & the other evening
at an awfully good entertainment
given by the engineers so many people
were watching it sounded like a
"dogg show".

Capt. Sherrill (our nice Chaplain),
your bet Mr. Aub; Capt. Kinnick
& Mr. Moss are on the list of invalids.
The Major himself had to keep his
rooms for three or four days.

The Major may send for you & return
me. I am not much good here.

The house keeping seems to be the
great necessity and every Sat. morn-
ing there is the great inspection
headed by the C. O.

The orderlies & pts. have to do the
scrubbing & they don't like it & our
nurses are not specially good at
bossing people around.

I think Unzabell is what he
really needs here.

Since the Major came down heavily
on the charge orderlies of the I. H.
wards he has kept his yards so
shining that one feels that the
floor is much too good to walk on
and a pair of crutches would be the
only acceptable means of locomotion
through his department.

When we read about the mistletoe



Bruges: Dimanche d'Hiver. Bois d'A. Delstanche.

4.
You are sending us we shrieked because
the trees in our grounds are full of the
most beautiful mistletoe. The Holly
also grows near here & our decorations
will be beautiful Xmas.

We are much pleased with what
the Nurses are sending us and
think you are all more than good
to take so much trouble on our behalf
when in reality I think we are in
many ways having an easier time
than you people at home.

Since we have our own "mess" the
meal is excellent altho' mess
rightly describes the service your
meal. Having only 3 maids &
no place to keep food warm that
is at all adequate we help our-
selves very informally.

Certain things we miss very much of
Cruise and we are like children
when "lets" come from home. It is really
disgusting to find that material things
can matter so much.

I enjoyed your vivid description of
P.B.B. production. Mr. Reynolds is the ^{kind}
I presume he will present Miss Hall with
another medal when she returns.
Congratulations on the Cooking! It will
be a joy not to have ward & night nurses
off for that Cruise.

I am so glad the "Book" is going on.
About Smoking - are you much bothered?
From what you write I judge someone
has been sending back stories.

I don't think we have much here.
Miss Haines I saw smoking once & I
have heard that Miss Raper indulges
but I have never seen any signs
of it. The nurses know I disapprove
of it & I am sure very few do smoke
but we have a pretty Miss Lee who
smokes habitually & publicly - She
also uses more slang "gosh" being
a favorite expression, I mild prefer
in the way of "clams" than any
one I was ever associated with.

Another Lily smokes quietly on
the side - The nurses buy cigarettes
for the soldiers sometimes & stuff
themselves open to suspicion perhaps.
Mor anasi, because I find them
to my erst- while filled whom I
have now disabled.

I don't feel justified in making a

I am glad U. S. Base Hospital No. 6 - Wd. 17
the 2nd. Jan. 3, 1918.
I am glad -
what they did!

Dear Miss Wood:-

I've just been reading
in 'The Times' about your coal shortage,
lightless nights in N. Y., your
weather etc and I don't think
we have got a thing on you.

I'm dreadfully sorry you are
all having so much discomfort
because it seems harder when
it comes suddenly.

Your long interesting letter
came the day before Xmas &
Miss McLeary's "Hennery"
came Xmas day. Please tell
her if she is back from Halifax.
It is going to take me a long
time to get around with my
letters altho' I am having a
wonderful opportunity this
week while I am in bed
mussing a bronchial cold.

The M. I. H. boxes have not come yet, nor those sent by Trinity or the Red Cross.

Fortunately the R.C. in Paris sent Comfort bags to all the soldiers and Grace Nichols who is now at the front doing canteen work sent each nurse & secretary from Paris 2 lovely towels with their initials beautifully emb. on them. With money the Chaplain had nuts & raisins were purchased so every one had a red tablet bag of "eats".

The Y. M. C. A. gave us decoration for our tree and nature served about here furnished the holly, mistletoe, ivy & evergreen that made all our wards, mess rooms & Red Cross Hut very attractive.

Uncle Sam provided an excellent dinner and we had a very nice time.

thing to do with choosing the new
Contingent please don't choose any
growlers or bad tempered people. I
think we have got along pretty
well but it would have been dreadful
if we had had any chronic kickers.
This is no place for any one who is
hypercritical, jealous, "sensitive" or
for one who is not willing to do any
thing she is asked to do, or to put
up with any kind of inconvenience
that she may find.

We have as many pts. as you have
& there is one refrigerator for all -
there is very little hot water - only what
can be heated on a Primus stove in
some wards - no bath tubs - no place
to keep food warm - all people who
can walk must go outside toilets.
Most of the work has to be done by conva-
lescent pts. & it is hard to get used to
making them do it & they are changing
all the time. First breakfast for
nurses is 6.30 & they are due on the
ward at 7 a.m. It will probably
be earlier in the Spring.
We expect to have heat & hot water

50
Sometime but labor is scarce, and often inefficient. We have waited weeks for stores in the wards because we could not get the elbows to the pipes. There are lots of nagging, annoying things to try one's temper - it's awful hard to keep up to a military standard of cleanliness working under such conditions & this is no place for anyone who isn't soldier enough to accept the kind of hardships one may encounter.

For contrast, through the generosity of the Red Cross we have some comfortable furnishings for our living room - we are to have some bed side rugs and some bicycles. We have also been provided with some warm clothes.

We are lucky to have had the contract for our shackles sealed before the last governmental edict about nurses' quarters - After this when said quarters have to be built they are to be like bunks in a steamer!

I can understand why (check 4 next)

Easily but am selfish enough to
be glad we don't have to have them.
I would hate to go home before peace
is declared but as far as liking
this kind of a job is concerned I'd
rather have my old one.

Of course there must be some cen-
tral authority to make final de-
cisions, to receive orders farther
nursing body & some one to be held
responsible for the nurses in gen-
eral. The nurses in this case
are so capable and generously
cooperative that my actual
duty so far as I can learn is to
inspect the nurse keeping per-
petually! It doesn't seem like
much of a job and I don't feel
very essential **yet** altho' I love
to interview all these people that
you detach I don't want to change
with you unless the Major sends
me home! I tell him all your
pathetic messages & if we could
see any one we could safely leave
the school while we are
away we would love to have you

come over - I would like to have you
more than I can well express but!
I am glad you are at last relieved
of Miss B. Haven't you picked up any
"pets" yet that you are interested in
that your assistants would like
to crowd? I think it's good for
their souls to have one or two like
that!

I shall be anxious to hear about the
Halifax experience - what a dreadful
thing it was! Two of our nurses
live there & were in suspense a long
time. It must have been very
hard for you all at the hospital
having so many taken right out -
you will be learning how to do
without the non-essentials as well
as we who are in improvised
hospitals.

Will you please send me a
Report with the list of graduates
in it? I have often wanted to refer
to one & now I am wondering if
a Mrs. Munro of Gardner who
sent me a nice Xmas box is one

of our grade. I have had things
from the most unexpected sources
and it seems as if our Xmas was
to stretch out indefinitely -
We are looking with keen anticipa-
tion for the M. S. H. boxes & the
one from Colgate.

3 Will you also send me at my
expense some Pebe's tooth paste

The Magazines are coming along
nicely and are much enjoyed -
Nothing could have pleased us
better and I think they will help
to keep us in a normal frame of
mind. I think we all feel this
period between the time when the
novelty of our adventure had worn
off and the time when we shall
have our pts. from the trenches,
a more difficult one for our dispo-
sition than at first or than we
shalt. when the character of the
work is such that our feelings
in comparison with the soldiers
will sink into such insignificance
that no one but a worm could think

of her self. I don't think many would
go back if they could but Miss Rogers
(who is now in Paris) says she thinks
she is needed more in Holyoke than
here and I don't think she has
been happy much of the time.

Miss Whitney is wild to come over
if it were not for her appendicitis
I would be willing to have her if
she intends to come any way regret-
less of her hospital. My honest
feeling is that younger graduates
would do just as well now if
they were the right kind of
young women for it seems a
pity to waste so many good
executives on vertiginous bedside
nursing here when hospitals
at home are suffering.

I am delighted to hear that
Hilda George at last is able
to come over & that she has got
the Leavell Nurse position.

I had a lovely letter from her.
I am sending you "The Spiker"
which speaks for itself if you

Continuation from sheet 4
Sept. 1. Co. C of the 18th Co
Several weeks of helping in
fire reconstruction. Several
the two cartoonists were
some choice sketches but
I think you will like the
corner of the every set. Most
the whole of the day and
terrors to those of us who
interactions & live the
in bed & watch it every
The Wife - a piece of dialogue
was so funny that we had to
the persons are, with doubt
good to be walked on for
figures of things to have clear
when the attitude is a piece
to one conclusion and a
discretion, wings are in

[illegible]

How I wish you could drop in
tonight for a good talk!

I rec'd a very nice calendar from
Miss Holliver, which stands on
my table ticking off the days to
spring when I hope we will shake
these colds.

I want to write a letter for the
school & if I have to stay here the
rest of the week I think I can
manage it.

I am wondering who will get
the senior prizes.

Am awfully sorry about Mrs.
White's end & can imagine
how hard it is for Mrs. Vaughan.

They have always seemed like
sisters. I had a nice little note
from Mrs. Mason. I will write
you again after the boxes come &
try to write something you can
read to the Ladies' Committee.

With lots of love and all
good wishes for the New Year
I am, faithfully yours, S.E.P.

We have a lot of aunts and they
they are just like children. One
was praying at 3 p.m. one day be-
fore I married and when asked what
he was praying for at that time
of day he said "Miss, I'm just thank-
ing the good Lord that I've a quince
stew here over Christmas!"

The weather was perfect.
Thursday night we had a cinema
show & treat for our French employees
& their children.

Many of us had had personal
boxes by that time so we were
able to give them all nice gifts.

My room looks like a grocery
store now and I should
feel very guilty if I were to keep
it all for myself for I realize
that you are subjected as restric-
ted home as the people are over
here but it has been three years
for the French.

Since we have had our govern-
ment rationing we have had
plenty of sugar, butter & conden-
sed milk - New Year's we began

To have white bread which is
made in town by an American
baker. For the first few weeks
when we came we were in French
nations which did not include
the before mentioned luxuries &
we "like did" have sweets -
Soda Crackers are now as great
a treat as any thing because
they are not in our ration -

I am going to make up a box of
goodies and send to Mr. Annie
Hamilton for her French pts.

You know she started the first
S.S. for nurses in France & she
is in charge of a very nice French
hospital (Protestant!)

I hope I can send some things
to the hospital where Mrs.
Marie is. She was the Director
of Nurses here when the French
were in charge.

We had open house in the Hotel
Linas afternoon and lots of our
expatriates & French acquaint.

ancient castle.

One of our neighbors is la Mar-
quise de Buvier, a charming woman
with 2 sons at the front and
a very nice looking husband &
a young son at home.

They live in a very handsome
chateau which from the outside
looks like a castle.

A few of us were invited there
for tea last Sunday afternoon
& I was very sorry not to be able
to go as I am too at the house. It
is not only beautiful but ^{is} historically
very interesting.

There is a secret passage &
apartment where some ancestor
was sequestered 3 months & eventually
beheaded.

I hope I get another invitation.
New Year's Day I was invited to
another French family to dinner
& assist at their New Year's
fête which they celebrate instead

of Christmas.

That also I lost - however I have had a very enjoyable lazy time in bed looking out at the snow storm and eating, sleeping, writing, reading & keeping nice & warm!

I shall get back soon on my job for I feel too much like a slacker now.

I am told that the government is going to send us 35 more mules as soon as transportation can be arranged. We shall need them by the time they get here. Our wards fill up as fast as we get them cleaned & painted.

We are having plumbing put in but it is slow work.

We expect to get into our shacks in a few weeks. We shall each have a little room to ourselves - very little furniture - We expect

to have shower baths + to go to a
Central W.R. for our meals.

Since we have had our own
mess we have been very well sat-
isfied which is saying a good
deal for 71 different females.

The coffee is better than we had
at home. We have not had con-
veniences for keeping food hot
& our service is primitive but we
all seem to have good appet-
ites and many are gaining
in weight. I have heard no
criticisms.

Most of our problems should
be solved when the new ones
arrive but if you have any
thing —

(This blank space is
due to the censor)

U.S. Base Hospital No. 6
A.E.F. France
January 20, 1918.

To the Nursing Staff:
Dear Graduates, Student Nurses,
and Probationers:-

After reading a recent letter from Miss Wietz telling about the changes in the staff and various new items concerning the nurses, I suddenly felt quite home sick and very far away. I hadn't quite realized before that during these six months while I have been trying to adjust myself to entirely new conditions and to an indefinite term of service abroad, that at home the nurses were graduating, some were leaving and other things happening in

which I have no part.

The idea is detestable that some of you are leaving and I am not there to say good-bye or to wish you good luck and to talk over your plans with you.

That has always been such a pleasant part of my privileges as your superintendent.

When January 10th came Mr. Washburn and I thought of graduation and wished there were flying machines to take us over for the evening at least.

I can imagine the long procession lead by the Probationers because I have watched it for seven years and been thrilled and inspired every time by the seemingly endless chain of Nurses, Nurses, Nurses; Blue, Checked and White.

When you have headed an expedition like this you will realize what it means to work with a lot of women, trained and disciplined to meet any emergency or to adapt themselves to any situation.

Some are now helping in the work for the ropatriés in Paris and the rest are doing whatever phase of Nursing work is required and the harder it is, the happier and more cheerful the workers.

Even Nurses are not altogether superior to the insidious dangers of a comparatively idle existence!

I have heard that the greatest fault with experienced graduates who have had executive work on a trip like this was that they didn't like the actual nursing work but all wanted to be Charge Nurses. With us the reverse is

thus far. They all seem hap-
pier to work over the patients, but
take on the executive responsibil-
ities in addition quite cheerfully.

I wish I might send you photo-
graphs of our hospital and
grounds so you could imagine
us as we can visualize you
in the M. S. H.

We don't like to write about our
discomforts for fear of giving an
exaggerated idea of them. On
the other hand if we write only
of the agreeable features of the
expedition it is also mislead-
ing. Some of my friends say
that my letters sound as if I
were simply on a pleasure
trip.

It has been our policy to get
all the pleasure we can out
of our experience without neg-
lecting any duty. Most all



Anvers: La Dentellière. Bois d'A. Delstanche.

feel when there seems to be no need for⁵ one. Some will have.

Mrs. Cook spent an afternoon with us and it was good to see someone right from the alumnae. She is now in Rome Miss May conscientiously hurried right on to her destination without waiting to see us.

"I hope you all" will have a good Xmas. If we have more things than we need we hope to help some one else to have a good time. We plan a party for our civilian employees (French women 40 or 50) and their children.

I also hope we shall have enough to pass on to some of the soldiers who are stationed in this vicinity with no special friends to remember them. We have some faithful

friends among the engineers and the marines. The Co. of Engineers that has been stationed here helping in the work of construction, sewerage etc expects to leave any day. We shall miss them. They have waited on the nurses hand and foot & many are the comforts they have provided in the way of soap-shelves, wash boards etc. etc. making them in off duty time.

I have today recd a nice tray with handles. My name cut in on the bottom & the 18th Engineers, Co. C. & date cut in one corner of the surface.

We could use any number of socks & sweaters (sleeveless) brown or gray. Lots of the men have none.

We are also desperate for cleaning cloths & dusts. They are awfully expensive & as yet we have no wash gauge for other pts. etc.

Tonight Mr. White is going to talk to us on Current Events.

Mr. C. as you know is loaned to the R.C. for relief work (medical). He now has Mr. Wade Wright, Misses Lovejoy, Carrier & Reilly. He has asked for Misses Barton, Field, Eastman & Bagley, & we expect their orders any day.

We have an ever increasing no. of patients & as so many nurses are away those at home (?) are quite busy. I am making friends among the French people & am very well indeed. Could write more but would like to gossip a little but shall have to wait until another time -

Love to all the family - S.E.P.

Base Hoops. No. 6
Jan. 24, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

I can't tell you what
joy it was to get your splendid
letter of Dec. 27 with so much
news. Congratulations on
the Simmons - M. S. H.
affiliation. It's the best
thing yet. Long live
Helen Wood and Anne
Hervey Strong. I haven't
time to tell you anything
now except that with
9 nurses in Paris and
4 sick & 2 convalescents

important it is to give nurses a thorough training in practice & theory. Also how much it means to have the right type - honorable, well bred, educated nurses will only be attracted to properly conducted behavior in any number.

It is such a comfort to know our nurses are equal to any phase of nursing work - also that they can be trusted to conduct themselves properly wherever they go.

We have had splendid reports from other hospitals to the Surg. Gen's Bureau where they have worked and Mr. Cabot says there

2

of us have taken and are now taking French lessons and I think most of the nurses could travel about and make themselves understood without too much trouble.

We are making friends among the French people who are very hospitable. We have no end of chances to exchange conversation. We meet many interesting people among the soldiers who come from all over the U.S. and many times friends, acquaintances & relatives happen to come this way whom we haven't expected to see at all.

We have been having delightful spring like weather since I started this letter - for it is now the 5th of Feb. - Spring flowers are blossoming and the bird songs are the sweetest I ever heard. We shall undoubtedly have more cold weather and over-shoes & mittens will be in order, but it can't last long.

Our barracks are really going up quite rapidly and we are very keen about getting into them.

Our officers have most all moved into a chateau on the grounds and the wards where we are now living will be needed soon for pts.

Some of the nurses have bought bicycles and the Red Cross has given us four so those who like to travel that way will have lovely rides. The roads are very good, there are no hills around this section and never any wind.

We are still looking for the Xmas boxes and we are enjoying the magazines immensely - that you sent us.

We have been very busy lately and shall be glad to see our reserve nurses when they come.

I must bring my letter to a close soon but before doing so let me urge you to make the most of your opportunities over there and ~~be~~ you may be sure that your work is just as important as the work over here.

I hope you love it as I used to when I was a pupil nurse, and I hope the future holds all sorts of interesting opportunities for you and that you will be happy and very useful members of Society.

I miss you all very much and am sorry not to know the younger nurses who have come in since I left. That is a pleasure I look forward to "after la guerre" -
With love & best wishes
Faithfully yours,
Sara E. Parsons

we are very busy.

We have nearly as many very sick pts. now as our Unit was supposed to care for & it is much more difficult than as if they were Surg. pts. Wish I could tell you details.

I will try soon to write a real answer to your letter. This is only a vehicle for sending a check to the Dr. Sch. Endowment Fund.

Please tell Mr. Foster that I realize more keenly than ever how

what are working with the rapatriés
are doing fine work.

All this makes me feel our school
much be put on a perfectly sound
financial basis & I wish it might
be the first to be so established.

I think you are 'carrying on' wonder-
fully in the old N. G. & I long very to
live & prosper. Give word to hear
about graduation.

Quartettes received - many thanks!

Much love to every body & a
longer letter soon.

J.K.

S.E.P.

N.K.S.

them when the Hoboken piers
are unloaded.

S.E.P.

~~Impartate~~

Base Hosp. No. 6, A.E.F.
Feb. 25, 1918

Dear Miss Wood:-

I have just
recd the photo. of the
graduating class and
am so pleased to have
it! Thank you very much
for sending it.

It has just occurred to
me I never explained to
you about the scholarships.
So I hasten to do so.

Last year there were given
to the youngest class.
Those who had come in

with the understanding that \$50. would not be refunded when they graduated - but that each year the three who had highest grade considering theory & practice should receive \$100. scholarships.

This spring that class which is 1919 class I think (Miss Redfield a winner last year is in it) is entitled to 3 scholarships & the 1920 class should also have 3. Next spring all three classes will each have 3 scholarships.

Before we started this the hospital gave back their tuition money at graduation.

I think the hospital still has \$50. or \$100. which can be given to deserving students on the quiet who need help. Such students I always encourage to return the money to the Student Loan Fund which Mrs. Vaughan has charge of.

To night I got a letter from Misses Rodger, Olsen, Norton & Williams who are at a casualty clearing station near the front - They write that they & 4 nurses from No. 8 are the

just to be sent so far north
and they are very happy
to be there. No doctors went
with them. God grant
they come back safely!

We expect all our nurses
who have been loaned to
the Red Cross except Miss
Lorejoy & Miss Field back
here tomorrow night.

We are pretty busy now have
between 4 to 5 hundred pts.

Yesterday we had the second
windy day since we landed
July 25th 1917!

Love to all - hope you have
all got the numerous letters we
have written since Xmas -
No boxes yet but we expect



Les Flandres ravagées par les Allemands.

Collection de Mr J. Massart, Professeur à l'Université de Bruxelles.

Base Hospital No. 6
March 25, 1918

My dear Helen Wood, your letter
was as welcome as our cannon
ball stoves were in Dec. & that is
saying something! It came in-
tact and I was edified by
your remarks on army nurses.
I am delighted to hear that
Miss Goodrich is to inspect
the army hospitals - I am sure
there will be good results in the
nursing service. If the govern-
ment waited in earnest they
would never appoint a woman
like her.
I can't blame the nurses who



Required up on the Reserve List for not going into the Cantonment work because they naturally made their plans for foreign service this spring & it's awfully hard to readjust ones self suddenly to prospects so different.

We haven't seen Miss Bell yet & she has not called any conference of Chief Nurses. The doctors are going to Paris all the time for medical meetings and there seems to be a distinct effort to make the medical work conform to modern standards.

As yet there is no general plan of cooperative nursing as there is in the English Military Hosp's. - There the Chief Nurse has her automobile & chauffeur & goes about constantly from one hosp. to another & adjusts the nursing steps according to the needs of the whole group.

I hear that Miss Russell is going back & we are wondering who will be appointed in her place. Of course we all think Miss Goodrich is the one for the position but I think her present appoint-



Collection de Mr F. Massart, Professeur à l'Université de Bruxelles.

Les Flandres ravagées par les Allemands.

ment is more important.

The Red Cross nurse should be an unusual type of woman as she will have to create her position & deal with all sorts of people professional & non-professional. She should talk French and have social adaptability.

I think Alice Fitzgerald would be a pretty good candidate. She is now in charge of the nursing part of the convalescent hospitals which the Red Cross has undertaken to establish over here.

At present she is established in this locality & I see a good deal of her. This reminds me that

Miss George has just written me of her arrival in England yet.



I am glad you went to S. C. Sumner
& Major W. & I approve heartily of the
Military Hosp. off. for the select
Review. I wish you would take that
job, establish mine, permanently.

You are just the one, as I always
said & I am sorry I didn't have that
reception for you that I planned.

You know of course that none of the
M. S. H. staff over here are reappointed
this year & the positions are only
temporarily filled.

I hope your home affairs will be better
next year so you will not have the
feeling of divided responsibility.

I am very glad you are going to the
Congress - hope nothing will pre-
vent. I have been asked to write
something for the A. N. A. but my
experience has been so narrow that
nothing I could write about the
work would be of the least value.

We have had 2 nurses from N. Carol-
lina attached to our staff & they
are living in a pretty chateau
across the road. They are very
nice & are going to fit in nicely
I think. Their Major is a G. H. H.
man very well trained & all the
rest are Captains except one Lt.



D'après des documents exécutés par M. le Professeur J. Massart de Bruxelles.

Dunes de Coxyde.—Flandre Occidentale (Belgique).

I don't know how much that means 3.
but we feel sure they can not be as
clever as our Itos.

We are getting very busy & as 7 of our
messes are at the front & 9 on R.O.A.
we have none too many.

I am awfully sorry about the news
of Lieke's illness getting to Hilda this
devious channels. It seems rather
hard that the censors would not let
me write about it & that the officers
who censor their own letters should
have written to their friends what
I was not permitted to mention.

Lieke asked Lt. Berger to write but
I suppose she never got his letter.

I answered her cable immediately
& followed it by a letter as much
as I was permitted —
I hope she rec'd them long before



this. Lucy is put in a reclining chair every day now and looks much better but she has been sick since Xmas & will have a long convalescence & fear. She has had special nurses (over best) from the first and everyone has been devoted to herself, & she has wanted for nothing.

We have had a busy winter, but a quiet one. Now & again a little change relieves the monotony of our routine. I had a real automobile ride last week & Miss Fitzgerald to see a beautiful chateau which has been fixed up for convalescent officers.

I lunched last Sunday - 2 wk. ago - with Mrs. Vincent Carter, Ethel Harriman Russell and their companion Mrs. Hopkins who is a trained nurse.

They are all pleasant people to meet & are doing good work here for our Corner Soldiers.

Last Fri. night I chaperoned 30 nurses for a dance at one of the camps not far away. The transported us in a "Camion" & gave us a very pleasant evening.

The music was fine & the supper delicious. We have a dance here occasionally but we couldn't be called frivolous by any stretch of the imagination.



Les Flandres ravagées par les Allemands.

Collection de Mr J. Massart, Professeur à l'Université de Bruxelles.

Kid & Tell you I am expecting to go
 to Biarritz Saturday for my week
 "permission" - am going alone to get
 what practice I can in French con-
 versation. I shall shun English
 speaking people like the plague.
 There are so many things I would
 like to write about that I could go on
 all night but one ought to consider
 the censors! Please show my
 letter with Miss McEneaney & tell her
 that I shall soon write her a long
 French letter as she permits -
 I enjoyed her letter very much as
 always & I rec'd the programme etc.
 Was greatly interested. I never told
 Mrs. Shaper a thing about college
 grads - I only said I was surer
 than ever that we needed an
 army nursing especially the



finest type of women with the most thorough training. I shall never dare go back to Mass. After such a statement. The graduates had enough against me before!

Tomorrow I am having a little tea for Mme. Centre wife of a French Prof. who is giving a course in Lit. & Languages at Harvard this year.

O! I wish you could see this place now and could feel the springlike air!

The fruit trees are in bloom, the grass starred with daisies, lots of violets & mimosa & the bird songs are ravishing!

It doesn't seem possible that war is going on in this beautiful country -

Now I must stop - Lots of love to all the family - S.E.P.

O! Your pet Mr. Cub has gone for his permission - he has been doing splendid work & deserves a good time -

1/11

W.K.S.

Base Hospital No. 6
April 29, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

Was ever so glad to get #12. By this time I trust you have rec^d the various letters which I have written you.

I wish I could tell you just how I feel when I read your plaints concerning your ungenerous diet as Sept pro tem!

First place I am disappointed that you don't love the job - I think you would when it was practically yours. You know I have always wanted you to have the position & I feel that way more than ever since I have heard all the nice things every one says about you and see what you have accomplished already.

Secondly, I can't seem to imagine myself back there ever

you know how I was counting on
a L.O.C. before the war broke out.

If I could go back tomorrow I
am more than ever unfit to take
up such an important task -
at least with out a long rest
and a chance to brush up.

Lastly, you know of course
that I am no longer Sup't of
Nurses at the M.G.H. not hav-
ing been reelected at the end
of my last year. The same
fact is true of all M.G.H.
officers over here - even Major
W.

I am in bed again, coming to
the ward last Monday with
an Acute Res. Tr. which has
settled into an antrum.

This makes 22 days up to
date that I have lost since
enlisting. Next winter ought
to be easier as presumably
we shall have heat and a

better knowledge of how to
care for one's self. (I am still
wearing a flannel wrapper
nights!)

I want to stay to the end of the
war if I can keep well enough,
and at present my health com-
pares pretty favorably with that
of several of the officers.

Even Major W. has absconded in
his room for a few days at three
different times.

If Major Washburn were still
C.O. I should feel quite sure of
staying unless something extra-
ordinary prevented but now that
we have a new head he might
easily decide anywhere that
he would prefer another C.O.

He can't be getting a very
favorable opinion of me at
present - I haven't seen him
yet but expect him to call

This p.m.

I hope letters have been rec'd
by Misses (matron) Clark & McLesage
which tell the particulars about
our loss. We are proud of
course to have Major W. promoted
etc. but we hated to lose
him dreadfully.

I am delighted that you and
Annabella are going to the con-
vention. I am sure it will be a
thrilling experience. I feel very
much out of everything altho
requests for papers reach me
even over here. Fortunately,
they usually come too late!

Besides that I am not in a
position to write anything now
of interest or value. Perhaps
when Miss Goodrich gets over
here we may have a chance
to talk as well as think.

Miss McLesage told me that
Mrs. Thayer said in a public

new environment & has dictated
some letters to Hilda.
Miss Emery has done beautifully
piece her off. (She did not have
measles) and before long will
be ready to go to Cannes to
convalesce. The Red Cross
has established some hotel in
C. for sick nurses.

I have written Annabella a
French letter telling her all about
my vacation in Biarritz so I
will refer you to her for partic-
ulars about that happy week.

Those who went to Mentone,
Nice, Beignin etc had a stren-
uous but delightful holiday.

The Red Cross gave the nurses
three bicycles & three or four
have bought their own so the
principal recreation is wheel-
ing (& falling) around the
Cotentin.

We have an occasional dance

The general of this section came out Saturday night and furnished the band. We have a long list of friends now coming officers who have been pts. here & who come & bring their friends.

Groups of nurses are sometimes invited to other camps - two weeks ago 15 of them were sent for with automobiles & were given a very nice dance, dinner and roses.

I am sorry to say that one of our most capable nurses had to be asked for her resignation and is now I suppose on her way home. It is Laura Beecher - I don't know whether you have met her. She was op. room nurse with Miss Mason before coming over here. I think I have written you about the Southern Nurses who are with us now & we have one nurse who was transferred to us from the Presbyterian Uni

I think Mr. Cadogan has been per-
manently detached from us to do
special orthopedic work.

Mr. R. Cabot is back & we expect
Mr. Wright in another month -
He and Miss Field who is doing
S.S. work at Compiègne have had
very interesting experiences & have
been a great help & should think
in their work for the refugees -
These are the saddest people!

I saw several arriving in Bayonne
from the newly invaded districts
Nothing more hopeless or pa-
thetic I never want to see.

A French-American Club has
been started in the city near here
& will be a source of considerable
interest I should think for all
who can attend it.

We are constantly hoping we
may see Mr. Balch and his
flock but I suppose it is rather
doubtful. If they should settle
in the 20,000 bed hosp. which is
not far from here there would be a

little chance. I am sorry you are
to lose Adele and I hoped she is
not making a mistake in risking
the possible hardships. There are
times when a strong stomach is about
as necessary as a diploma.

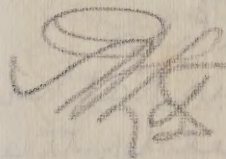
Your pet Mr. Cub has been calling
on me & watching for anything that
might be me. - He says I am fright-
fully uninteresting.

Please give my love to every
one that you think would
appreciate it - Much for yourself
& I should love to share the work
with you again, but I fear - jamais!

Yours always -

Sara E. Parsons

It's hard for me to forgive the omission
of those precious A.B.-s because I think
they attract others - you would better
have them written in. I hope things are
easier now -



meetings of graduate nurses &
that the College women stood
the work over here much better
& were the most satisfactory or
words to that effect!

Of course I never made such
a statement - what I did say
was that we needed the best
type of women - most thoroughly
trained - I shall not close
so home until her address
has been forgotten!

Care of you have found an
instructor & the bottom never
falls yet entirely."

You haven't said anything
about your friend Mr. Foster
lately, is he still 1st Asst?

Heaven help you if Mr. Howland
should go - I myself have been
wondering if he could stay on
much longer - especially
after Mr. Howard's accident.
How do Miss Harrison & Miss
Wibber get on as administrators

I was very much shocked to learn of Belva Grant's death. I always rather envy anyone who goes suddenly in the midst of their usefulness but I think she rather wanted to live and carry out some of her many plans.

About the money you have for us - I don't want to ask for anything yet as I feel we shall see much harder days in the future than we have had since our first six weeks.

Our ration allowance has been reduced but we have plenty of good food and are learning not to waste it. I still think the Xmas boxes will come. Have you put any tracer on the box that was to have come from Colgate's?

I hope I acknowledged the toothpaste which arrived O.K. & will suffice for a long time.

Be sure & send the bill to my sister.

I wish you could see the lovely
flowers in my window seat -

Exquisite American Beauties which
grow abundantly over, carnations
which are rare & very expensive,
yellow Rambler roses, lovely per-
fume-nots, pink & white lilacs,
scarlet tulips with purple centers,
a little white flower call'd "parier
d'argent" and lots of pale gold
prim roses.

Next side the birds sing all the
time - I never heard such lovely
gilded songsters. Some have heard
the nightingale but I am not sure
that I have. There is a bird tho'
that sings as sweetly as a canary.

The coo-coo seems very quaint -
he makes me think of a Swiss
clock all the time.

May Warner passed thro' here
yesterday en route for Italy.

A letter from Miss Olsen this a.m.
tells me they are very busy at the
front & don't know when they will

be back. Of course the most interesting part of the letter was torn out. We now have about twice the no. of pts. as your full capacity at the time I left.

We are glad to have some French pts. as well as Americans from the front. I wish I could tell you more about the work but it's not allowed.

Our new wards are nice & now that we have running hot water we feel as if we were in heaven.

Lucy Fletcher is now with a nurse & attendant in a private pension near the pine woods & ocean.

Her appetite is good - she is sleeping well and is taken out in a wheel chair to the ocean pleasant days.

She can't do much for herself & it is now a process of patient nursing to restore her confidence in her own physical ability to gradually take up ordinary activities. She is happy in her



Nieuport : La rue Longue, le 15 Septembre, 1916. Par M. Wagemans.

Base Hospital No. 6
May 15, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

I am so very sorry to hear from Miss Emery that you had Influenza and could not go to the Convention. I think if you all the week and I was dying to know how you would hold your own & all those people who are cutting their courses for College women & are graduating senior people six months in advance for military work. I should think it would result in an awful mess.

I wonder if Mr. Will command it to law. The J. H. H. can't get to cross even if Miss Lawler



wanted to do so.

Do you think we are holding our own in the number and quality of our applicants? Miss Butler tells me a Bryn Mawr grad. is going to take the Vassar course & was intending to train at M.G.H. but has decided to go to N.Y. Presbyterian as they will allow her a year for that 3 mos!!

Will you please tell Hilda Fletcher that there is considerable money deposited in Lloyd's Bank at Bordeaux in Lucy's name and they have her letter of credit.

Their address is
23, Allée de Chartres -

I don't know the procedure for getting them but I think the executor of her estate can do it thru an Amer. Bank.

I am still on the ward to my antrium this a.m. It was washed out & if it doesn't clear up soon Mr. Sobey is going to take out a piece of the antrium & tubercle. Am relieved to think some thing will be done soon. Probably Miss Conner & another convalescent nurse will go to a delightful conv. hosp. Saturday. Miss E. has just been in to see me & looking quite herself.



"Furnes,, André Lynen.

2.
 Here are items for the Quarterly -
 Capt Meares & Capt Mixter have
 gone to join Major W. in England.
 May Warner has passed thro' B.
 en route for Hafez.
 Marie L. Ellis has gone to Marseille
 to do civil & public health
 work same as she has been doing
 in Paris under the Children's
 Bureau.
 Carrie M. Hall has been transferred
 to London as Head Red Cross
 Nurse with the London Chapter -
 Rose Butler 1906 has been ap-
 pointed Temporary Chief Nurse -
 Off. for this time - Hope you
 & Miss M^{rs} Lomas are well -
 Love to family - S. E. P.



Base Hospital No. 6
C. E. F. France

May 8, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

Have checked you
must have been when you
got the cable announcing
Daisy Fletcher's death.

We buried her this afternoon
and I have just finished a
long letter to Hilda telling her
everything that I wasn't al-
lowed to tell before.

She was taken ill Dec. 24
with meningitis - altho' we
have had a few of those cases
all along she never happened
to have nursed them so we
could not discover where she
got her infection. She did
care for some suspects but they

proved to be negative & Mr. Moes who attempted to run down the source of infection could not discover it. She was very ill from the first but during the first two months we were in alternate states of hope & despair. I was rather glad I was not permitted to visit Hilda because it was terrible one week to think she might die anytime after a week when we were quite sure she was going to recover. After about 2 months she was cured of meningitis and improved noticeably but she would have short relapses with very high temp., vomiting, confusion & no one could discover the cause. During the last few weeks after most careful examination our doctors were convinced that she had no organic difficulty & all that stood in the way to complete recovery was a long, patient period of reeducation in the use of her muscles. She & 2 nurses were sent about 40 miles away to a lovely, healthful spot in the country near the ocean & pine woods. She was delighted to go and seemed happy & improved by the change. She had a good appetite for the delicious food which they had & she slept all night. The end came most suddenly and unexpectedly about 11.30 A.M. April 6. She had eaten a good breakfast but complained of pain in her neck. Suddenly Miss Mary Walsh who was with her noticed a change in respiration and pulse. She latter responded to stimulation

for a few minutes but she seemed to have lost consciousness & she died without any struggle or sign of suffering. Miss Buchanan one of her most intimate friends laid her out in her blue uniform and they say she looked very sweet and peaceful. Only her most intimate friends saw her after death.

The funeral was held this p.m. in the Red Cross Hut by Capt Sherill and all through it was very impressive and beautiful. The casket was covered with the flag and the flowers which were beautiful were leaned up in front of it against the supports -

About 50 nurses were able to get marched in together, the officers sat opposite,

Several came from town - 2.
The enlisted men marched in
sitting in the rear.

Mr. Cabot led the music &
we had the English church
service. Capt. Sherill as usual
paid just the right thing.

This is the first break we
have had in our family and
Lucy is the first on our roll
of honor - Her work and her
life will be an inspiration
to us all. Not once have we
ever heard her complain.
She has been most sweet and
patient. I didn't tell you
that the autopsy disclosed
a growth on the spinal cord
and hydrocephalus, so it
is a mercy that she was
taken. She would have been

paralyzed. She loved her work and always planned to go on with it when she recovered.

I hope you will have a memorial meeting for her and say for me that all the time during the trying pioneer experiences which we went through together and later during her long illness, the first part of which was so painful she was wonderfully brave, and patient and uncomplaining.

If all of us could be like her heaven would come on earth. It is a privilege to have known her. ~~and~~ I hope it will be possible to get a good photograph which can be hung in the Nurses' home to perpetuate her memory.

We have had some anxious moments and thrilling experiences even if we are not near the front. Some one came in and interrupted me so I lost the train of my thought - I intended to tell you about the service at the cemetery.

Captains O'Neal; Kinnicutt; Means; Oliver, Mixer, Lts. Leiguer, White and Hodgson were the pall bearers - Here is the first grave in the officer's lot and she is buried in one corner - We formed a square about the grave & after the service and prayer

The firing squad fired three salutes & then the bugler sounded taps. It was very thrilling. The officers marched to the cemetery behind the casket - the nurses rode in ambulances. The day has been grey with occasional rains but the country is lovely. The pink horse chestnuts are in bloom and lots of wild flowers everywhere.

I have been waiting for a sunny day to get out and I feel a little tired after being up today but I am quite sure I shall be about as usual soon.

Miss Emery is doing beautifully. Eating everything and

digesting it all right. She ³
looks awfully bloodless tho'
and I will feel better when her
color comes back. We expect
she will be able in about a
week to go to the officers con-
valescent hosp. not far from
here which is in a beautiful
chateau where they have
delicious food and real cream.
She has been a good soldier
too. It is ridiculous that
she & I should both be laid
up during the most exciting
period of the Unit's existence.
After being kept on the qui-
vive over our barracks & see-
ing them actually finished
with little single room, with
doors that shut, electric lights
& shower baths, they have been

taken away from us and it is chateaux
for ones! This from head quarters where
orders have been issued that when
quarters are constructed for nurses they
are to be according to certain specifications
(which I have not seen) which I hear
call for double tiers of bunks & no
floors! Chateaux will be much bet-
ter than that. Some say "it is better to
have loved & lost than never to have
loved at all" but you would have
hard work to convince any of us of the
truth of that statement.

The Lullabies were rec'd for which
many thanks. I read one cover to cover
even quotations from my own letters
thinking until I came to the end that
perhaps some of the stuff was written
by some one else. I am a sadder & a
wiser woman since I wrote what I did
about the barracks.

The Endowment Fund did my heart
good. So glad the nurses are not al-
together ^{losing} interest in ~~spite~~ during the
war. Have you asked Mr. Foster to
report the year's compounded interest?
Don't let them forget that we expect
the accrued interest to be added
until we realize an amount large
enough & make arrangements
for putting the endowment to use.
If there is any trouble or doubt about
this adding the interest we must
at once stop depositing with the
Trustees because before when we get

sufficient we must draw up
some kind of an agreement
about its administration.
When we first deposited the
gifts I simply asked them if
they would be willing to hold
it for us and invest it to the
best advantage. If I had
known as much then as I do
now I might not have done it.

Somerset Capitt Master leaves
us to go to the front & we are glad
for him because he will get
head surgery but sorry for us
because he is a fine Registrar
& a comfort to have around.
We wonder "what next" all the
time now.

I hope you & Miss McEneaney are
having a good time at the con-
vention - how I should like to be
there & I am wondering if Miss
Goodrich will get my letter -
We are needing for more nurses -
wish some of our own were coming -



Mitrailleuses—Armée Belge. Par A. Bastien.

#4-1919

U. S. B. H. No. 6 -
 Feby 15, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

Once more I am convalescing. I have had the ops. on my nose a week ago tomorrow and tomorrow I am going to [REDACTED] - the officers' convalescent hospital - for two or three days. Beycheville is the name of a very handsome villa - no, chateau which was loaned the Red Cross.

Today is fearfully hot on my side of the house and I am just coming out of coma.

Miss Emery is back from B - and having various examinations on acct of a bad bunch in her back - that is it too bad? We are full that she ought to go home but she can't endure the thought of it and I don't believe she will be sent against her will. I hope not, because she has enough to bear with this thing hanging over her. Please don't

Say anything about this possible
complication until you hear from
her.

We are ^{at} present over run & nurses be-
cause parts of two units are board-
ing & we until their quarters are
ready for them. We had asked
for an additional consignment
and recently a small group ar-
rived that had been collected from
the Cantonments at home & we think
they have come to stay. Miss Stobo, an
M.S.H. grad. is among them & there is
~~a Laybaker grad also.~~

We have two Service Stripes now &
I feel that I have won mine by the
battles I have fought in behalf of
the Conventions!

Your letter was full of surprises.
I am glad to ~~hear~~ that Miss H.
has had a breathing spell for I
hate to think her busy and how
busy you probably are now.

I heard Mr. Howland was leaving
& Mr. Heisey taking his place. I think
Miss Harrison would be the better
substitute. I hope that rumor
isn't true. I was much interested
in the yearly reports. I think I have
told you how good your address
was at graduation. I am surpris-
ed to see that you took in fewer
probs. than we had in 1916.

Was it because there wasn't room
for any more? With the Phelps
House & the war demands I should



Aumôniers—Armée Belge. Par A. Bastien.

2
 think you would have to make your
 three classes very large this year.
 Will Miss Goodrich consent you to
 military I. S.?

I can't see how they will help matters
 during the next 3 years because they
 will need more good grads. to super-
 vise the pupils that are needed to do
 the actual work. I wish the govt
 would accept the loan of senior
 pupils because I think that
 would help a lot & be a good experi-
 ence & test for the pupils.

I am amazed that Shelby J. can
 be spared from her own job but I
 think it will be very interesting
 to start the first school & I hope
 Miss McBrace will have the honor
 of teaching the first class.

I like what you say about giving
 our own students the whole show

"From Miss M^{rs} Grace Clary" - You are right - we must make the course as good for those who elect us that they can not regret it. I am awfully sorry M. G. is making herself disagreeable. She had a long, charming course because of her illnesses, etc. but I hoped what she got in variety of experience would compensate her for the time she spent in training - You know Miss Maxwell offered to take off 6 mos. or a year for her if she had gone to her & Miss M. was quite chagrined when our school was chosen. Miss Maxwell told me when she was here recently that she expected most of the C. S.'s would elect to stay the 3rd year.

Who tell me how many go to her when you find out.

I am delighted to think you are on the faculty of the Yeaser camp. What are you going to lecture on & how many are you going to give and when? Ceteris paribus you almost make me want to be home when I hear of all these "claims" -

I really never expect to lecture or speechify any more for my throat has gone back on me and I don't seem to have much ambition any more - That may be because there is little that is stimulating in my present occupation. There are some subjects I should



Artillerie—Armée Belge. Par A. Bastien.

I like to talk about but as long as I am over here I don't think there is much use talking.

I wonder why the State Assn didn't make Miss Allen president? Aren't they willing there should be any new blood in it? Miss Hart is a good soul but she hasn't enough "pep" to push that organization.

I guess Laura kept it stirred up. She has got lots of good ideas but!!

I am more than anxious to know how many recruits you have drawn into the schools. Are Misses Bennett & Howland going all right? The latter wrote me a very interesting letter recently & I had a good one from Miss Minger. I had a nice visit with Grace Nichols last week. She has been doing canteen work & now wants to start child kitchens in some French hospitals which is a good idea.

Your dream about my office in the
Trustee's room was amusing -
At present three of us are using one little
room and are grateful to have that.
A room alone will be a great luxury &
a private bath quite too good ever to be
true again!

Some one wrote me they were glad the
suit boxes had come - the doctor's
boxes came but never those for the
nurses and I am wondering if any
traces have been put on them or the
box that was coming from Colgate's.
I firmly believe they are over here
some where & if there was any bill of
lading perhaps we could follow them
up.

Sunday was a great day here as
well as ~~the~~ 4th of July - both days were
loosely & celebrated to great enthu-
siasm. Sunday the nurses marched
in the parade & made a great hit -
I didn't go into town because I was
god-mother for one of the Consul's
children - Mr. R. Cabot was god-father
There were four children baptised
& they are the sweetest things!

The new offensive is on and we
wait anxiously for the news -
Our boys are doing splendidly &
only the week night he won this
fall! I am expecting to retire
after having ~~some~~ ^{enjoyed} ~~iced~~ ^{iced} cocoa -
Much love to all the family &
special to yourself - I am so happy
to have you running our school & I
am more than perfectly what you are
doing for it - S. E. P.

U.S. Base Hospital No. 6
Amer. E. F. Forces
June 7, 1918.

Dear Miss Wood:-

Yesterday we saw that the Boches are after the N.Y. boats and we wonder what next? Also saw this morning in the French paper that N.Y. City is dark. Is it in the interest of conservation or are you afraid of air planes?

Since starting this letter I have been taking around 2 women from the Over Sea Hospital. They are edels, listing a hosp. Among the refugees for women & children. The whole unit is composed of women.

The head one looks about

sixty years old but as steady as an oak. They are having a hard time collecting their supplies.

We have been having beautiful weather for several days - cool at night and very warm while the sun shines. Our place is growing and people come and go all the time.

Miss Norton came back to us tired out. Fortunately we have an officer's Convalescent Hosp. connected with this place where we can send tired or convalescent nurses.

It is a beautiful chateau very comfortably fitted up by the Red Cross. Miss Emery is enjoying it much. She is better but her strength comes back slowly.

In the private rooms of this chateau there is the original french furniture. The rooms are upholstered in handsome materials and the beds are elaborately canopied.

In Miss Emery's room there is a puff of the material all around the top of the room ^{and} around the mirror which matches the canopy.

The nurses say they feel like Queens mounted on their thrones.

Miss Rodger had a happy surprise recently. A beautiful gold

watch was sent her from Paris
& on the back was engraved
"For Miss Rodger from Capt Von
and Capt Arch".

Capt von Holtzendorf was a
famous case. What tho' the
Pericardium & it is said Miss
R. did a famous bit of nursing.
Capt Arch is Capt Roosevelt
who was a great favorite with
the nurses.

We are to have service stripes
which please no children
that we are!

Last night Capt Sherrill and
I were invited to dine with
the Marquise du Vivier,
neighbors of ours who live in
a very old and handsome
chateau. They are lovely
people who regularly
attend service here and the
chaplain is a great friend

of their little girl who says
she is going to marry him
when she is 17.

I know it is very vulgar to com-
ment on the dinner but I can't
help it. It was french cooking
of the de luxe kind and the
green peas & asparagus from
their own garden, not to mention
delicious strawberries and
cherries were worthy of an
epic!

~~Speaking of food makes~~
I wish you could see the
working of our Cafeteria!
We have tables made of 3
boards - cracks between
the boards wide enough to
drop a biscuit thru - The
benches are fastened to the
table & we have to step over

them. We haven't trays yet & if you could see the solemn procession wending their way in gingerly fashion across the floor with food, silver, dessert and a cup of coffee balanced in their hands you would laugh.

We are quite tight now and waiting for another cargo.

It is interesting to see the fluctuations in the fruit market with the opening & closing of the Spanish border.

Recently I paid 6 cents a piece for some miserable little bananas and 10 cents each for lemons.

Will I tell you about the barracks which we have watched during the last six months grow to completion?

They consist of 16 single rooms - one window each, walls plastered and one shelf with 4 hooks for clothes. In each ^{barrack} are 2 toilets and 2 showers.

We have anticipated them longingly for the privacy and one time we would expect to have them & then another after some inspection they would recede out of our hopes. Finally the general inspector came & promised us to recommend H.Q. to let us have them (with 2 in each room) & we really thought they were ours. We had to evacuate

the wards recently and so 32 of us moved into Nos. 1 & 2. How we are enjoying them! Some of the nurses have curtained their windows, packing boxes and shelves & have very attractive rooms - Several of

no have window boxes & I wish
you could see mine with its
geraniums, verbenas, heliotrope
Amor verberna, & Marguerites.
I love it, & my window looks out
into the woods & the birds sing
all day & all night - One
forgets the war for a little
while. Very dear! and
finally word has come that
we must all live in Chateaux
and evacuate the barracks
so there is a dream with a rude
awakening. The Chateaux are
very attractive in many ways
but it is the "ensemble" effect
that is so tiring after awhile,
that makes us regretful.

The grounds are beautiful
at the Chateau where part
of our nurses live already &
one of our Southern Nurses is
giving a lawn party this
evening to the officers & nurses

Our magnolia trees are 3.
bursting into bloom now &
I look out into their branches
through the flowers in the
windows of our office.

Miss Ricker is housekeeper
& Miss Waldron is my assist-
ant & we have a cunning
little office together.

What do you think! One of the
Trinity Xmas boxes turned up
this week. Perhaps in time
the M. G. H. boxes will come from
the school! Two of the boxes
for officers came with the S.
box.

Will I write you since your
Convention letter? I was cur-
iously interested in it and
am very anxious to hear
more. I can't see from here
how Miss Goodrich's idea of

a school in Army Hospital would
work out very well. I had thought it
over here for French girls. We have
plenty of good clinical material (we
have even had one maternity case -
the Consul's wife!) but the the doctors
come & go and nurses are detached
for indefinite periods and we would
need a larger force of nurses (graduated)
to teach & supervise pupils if we had
them & we would also need a perma-
nent teaching staff. Oh Grace!
Suppose her idea is to get the sciences
taught in summer courses & perhaps
she sees a way to manage the rest
of the instruction. Well over here it would
be out of the question. Miss Springer
sent me some interesting clippings
about the child conservation movement
& the cottages on the Common.

Miss Courier has been detached again
to go into French hospo. where there are
American wounded.

By the way, I haven't got my L.S. report yet,
but I read Miss Carleton's and I want
to congratulate you on your address
which was very interesting and
emphasized the important facts
that I have so much at heart. You were
certainly born for the place.

How is Miss Sullivan getting on?
I am pleased to see that she follows
up the conventions and it seems as
if Miss Fried & Miss Johnson were
making dents - It is fine to watch
the younger generation coming on.
Is Mrs. Lee Linscott Hewell and the

Last year bride coming back to
finish their courses? I'd love
to see Miss Hoyt & Mrs. Crane
who may be on their way over
here. If Mrs. C. doesn't fly into
pieces before she gets here I
shall be surprised.

I rec'd a very interesting letter
from Miss Howland recently -
Please tell Misses Wiggins, McLean
and most of the others that they
owe me letters.

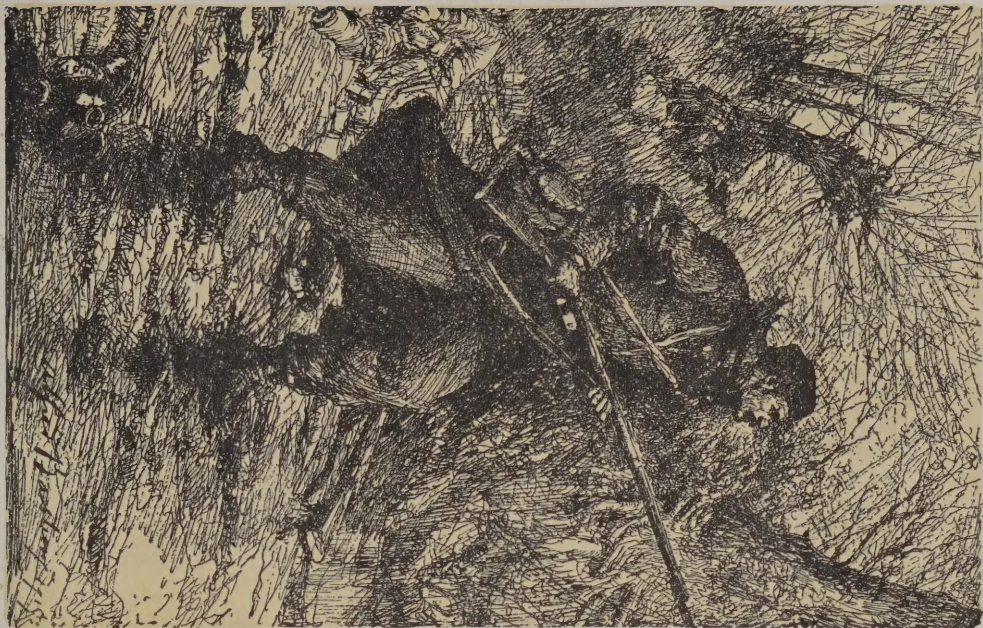
For the censor's sake, if not for you
I must stop now - with

Much Love to all the
family & Mr. Howland

Yours faithfully

Sara E. Parnes

If you are allowed to send
some Faber's pencils No. 2 to me
in an envelope I should ap-
preciate some very much!



D. K.
W. F. T.

U. S. Base Hospital No. 6
Sept 3, 1918.

Dearest Sallie Johnson:-

In imagination
I picture you somewhere in N. Y.
laboring over Student Reserve
Nurses! A fear creeps in that
you may be ill as a result of
overwork because I don't see how
any mortal can stand the pace
you have been going - I never
could have, at my best.

Those who imagine we are
working hard over here compared
with the average institution
nurse at home are very much
mistaken - The mere fact of
not having pupil nurses, classes

lectures etc to plan for, makes
all the difference in the world
and altho the ward nurses
have long days at the height
of the pressure, after a conveyer
has come in, there is a respite
after a few days -

It is perfectly wonderful how
soon many of the pts. are up & about
after they have been brought in
on stretchers with dreadful
wounds. Of course there are
always some who fail & fail
until their spirit goes west!

Another surprising thing
is the results an efficient,
tactful nurse can get by util-
izing the patient's help.

You would be surprised to see
how well our wards look & how
well cared for our pts. are when
one considers the no. of pts. com-
pared to the no. of nurses.

We have a very large hosp.
now caring for nearly twice as
many as the British hospitals
have. I think I may say without
breaking any rules that each
nurse averages from 24 to 36
patients & the head nurse so-
called has in addition to the
actual care of pts. the paper work
which is no small item in the A.E.F.



Artillerie—Armée Belge. Par A. Bastien.

There is usually one - often entirely untrained orderly between two Beech wards and no maid.

All that the nurse can do the patients do - if there are none in the ward able to do K.P. etc pts. from other wards are detailed.

We are now teaching some of the patients to assist at dressings & as we expect to be much busier before the wards get lighter, the nurses are wise to utilize all resources.

Since beginning this letter I have had two interesting interruptions, first Alice Westcott brought in a perfectly delicious chocolate ice - Next a nurse comes in weeping profusely, saying she wants to go to the front & back she can't stand it - that that is what she came over for! So I have tried to modify her point of view with questionable success.

They ought to be a special medal
for the faithful nurses & soldiers
who cheerfully do S. O. S. duty.

I must pay & thank much patience
& those who are not content with the
work we now have. Many of our pts.
are directly from the Evacuation
Hosp. & they are as a class such a
splendid lot of boys.

Poor Miss Emery has to go home. She
had a gastric outburst - cause ma-
lignant & there is already a question
of recurrence. I suppose she is safely
over by this time. She was all pluck
and up to the last minute made the
most of her year over here.

Several of our nurses are away now
so that the M. S. H. are in the minority.
Who you remember Miss Turner from
Albany, who came as secretary?
She was detached & is at S. H. G. now.
We liked her very much & were sorry
to lose her.

Before I forget it I want to pay her
praise & am sure you & Miss Friend -
She is also going to help at the Military
Schools, and I am so pleased to know
that our school is so well represented.
Miss Wood is doing splendid
stunts too. I wish I could hear her
lecture at Vassar.

Miss Maxwell has been with me
a week having lost the last boat
to Amer. on account of a defect in
her passport.

She has visited several British



Pontonniers—Armée Belge. Par A. Bastien.

hospitals at the front + had a most interesting experience. Thyrke Miss Swedish will come over in her official capacity. I think the present organization of the nursing service leaves much to be desired & she is just the person to point out the remedy to the night service.

We had a short but very pleasant call from Miss Peterson recently & Miss Stimson has been here, for one day & night full of enthusiasm & ideas. It is getting late & I haven't yet thanked you for your charming letter and most kind advice concerning my health.

To be perfectly frank I have myself feared that if I stayed this winter I might be more of a burden than a help because my mucous membranes are so susceptible but I have put the decision up to Major Cabot & the C. A.

Major C. thinks if I take rest sufficient I shall probably be able to "carry on" & he is looking after me very closely. I had a tuberculous & antrum abscess? & a good cervical & sent rest after wards.

If I were at home I should think nothing of my Colds & other minor ailments - but it is hard not to worry when one knows that sick nurses at this time are decidedly persona non grata! I want to see it through very much & the Nurses & Major C. are kind enough to think my mere presence here is important.

I am quite sure I could not go home & do justice to the work there without a considerable rest because I had reached that stage before I came over here. As the Allies are going now we hope for an earlier ending of the war. It does seem as if the Germans would have to give up in the face of the present situation - perhaps the next 3 months will tell!

I haven't heard from C.M.H. for a long time and say I would like to see her. Won't we have a good time when Johnny comes marching home & we tag after! The making up my mind now what I will have for dinner.

I have a wonderful voice when I have never been & when I think of all my nurses graduating & starting in life without any phone from me I can scarcely stand it - Well, time for lights out so with bushels of love
A. B. H. - S. E. P.



Les Flandres ravagées par les Allemands.

Collection de Mr J. Massart, Professeur à l'Université de Bruxelles.

U.S. Base Hoof, No. 6
Amer. E. F. France
Dec. 2, 1918.

My dear Miss Wood:-
I hasten to tell you that yes-
terday we rec'd one large Xmas box
for nurses and Colgate's box and I
wish you could have seen me unpack.
Weg it!! I had a wonderful time and
in the evening the contents were dis-
tributed to all the original nurses
who came over. We are going to send
their portions to those who are away.
I think we appreciate the contents
more now than we should have last
Xmas. The packing was mostly
the records came intact. Some of
the jam leaked on the outside of
some of the parcels but did no harm.
The jam looks awfully good!
I think the juicy part of St. White's
mince pie was on the outside of his



box, but I haven't seen him to learn how
the inside seemed.
We are more than surprised that the
crackles are so good after such a long
time. The saltines are very crisp &
tasty & more prized than anything
else. The decorations will come in
fine for this year.
The decoration is all right - the
sketching is just what we want for
our writing tables. The music is most
acceptable & the best shoes look
good to us with the thr. 6° above
zero now in our barracks.
I have sent a cable this morning
to let you know of the arrival.
We have enjoyed the magazines
so much I was about to, write ask
you to spread the peremgening \$25.00
to new subscriptions when Miss
Mulville said tea was 15 francs
a pot, & our p.m. tea means a good
deal to several of the nurses so I am
sending an order for 5 lbs of tea
if it is still sold at reasonable prices
"chez vous" - There would be no object
in sending it if it is equally ex-
pensive at home.
I am glad to see the magazines
which came in the box for they are
new to me. I will write soon &
thank Mr. & Mrs. Howland for their
nice present, also Miss Blackshear
& we would like to send thanks
for the pretty handkerchiefs if we



Overmeire.—Flandre Orientale (Belgique).
Polders argileux.

D'après des documents exécutés par M. le Professeur J. Massart de Bruxelles.

Knew the donor. I've delivered the
bundles to Geo. See dinner - have sent
word to St. Lawrence, & will send bel.
Washington's presents on to him.
The alcohol is a god-send and
altogether we feel that our school
has been a delightful Santa Claus.
I want to have the pastor & verses
framed to picture our Rec. Het.
They are charming & when we look
up house keeping we shall proba-
bly see them there off
& here that Unit 55 has arrived
& been broken up. Several nurses are
at No. 15 where the op. & check teams
are usually assembled.
How I would love to see them!
Things are dying at the front &
here too altho' we don't hear
peens! I wish I could tell you



about things here. You know how many
we came with - well we have about
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of that number now and we have
nearly 1 time as many pts. as our
unit was supposed to care for.
I wouldn't have supposed it possible
to accomplish what we do. It has
been a revelation & an education.
Sunday I had an invitation to go to a
neighboring chateau to see the vintage
but a big medical conveyance came in, the
day before so every body was working
even mother altho her job was mostly
in the office.
Those who know Chick who was in the
O. P. W. will be interested to hear that he
is now a lieutenant.
Capt O'Neal is now a major & we
are hoping to hear soon that our
Lts. are made Captains -
They ought to be! People with half
their ability & experience come over as
Capts & Majors.
Capt Leant is here now - came as
pt. & is now acting as ward sur-
geon.
Miss Rafuse was detached from us
some time ago & 6 other nurses. She
was back for a day this week & said she
was going to head quarters to ask to be
sent home. Don't know if she will be
allowed - I must stop now, altho
there is much more I would like to write.
Much love to all my friends
with a special like for you & my
immediate family - S. E. Parnum
O! I heard from your sister recently!

Received 10/11/18
S. E. Parnum

October 2, 1918.

I hasten to tell you that yesterday we received one large Xmas box for the nurses and Colgate's box, and I wish you could have seen me unpack it! I had a wonderful time and in the evening the contents were distributed to all the original nurses who came over. We are going to send their portions to those who are away.

I think we appreciate the contents more now than we should have last Xmas., The packing was masterly--the records came intact. Some of the jam leaked on the outside of some of the parcels but did no damage. The jam looks awfully good! I think the juicy part of Lt. White's mince pie was on the outside of his box, but I haven't seen him to learn how the inside seemed.

We are more than surprised that the crackers are so good after such a long time. The saltines are very crisp and tasty and more prized than anything else. The decorations will come in fine for this year. The chocolate is all right--the stationery is just what we want for our writing tables. The music is most acceptable and the bed shoes look good to us with the thermometer 6° above zero now in our barracks.

We have enjoyed the magazines so much I was about to write and ask you to spend the remaining \$25.00 for new subscriptions when Miss Mulville said that tea was 15 francs a pound here. Our p.m. tea means a good deal to several of the nurses so I am sending an order for five pounds of tea if it is still sold at reasonable "chez vous". There would be no object in sending it if it is equally expensive at home.

I am glad to see the magazines which came in the box for they are new to me. I will write soon and thank Dr. and Mrs. Howland for their nice present also Miss Bradstreet, and we would like to send thanks for the pretty handkerchiefs if we knew the donor. The alcohol is a god-send and altogether we feel that our School has been a delightful Santa Claus.

I want to have the poster and verses framed to put in our Receiving Hut. They are charming and when we break up Housekeeping we shall probably auction them off.

I hear that Unit 55 arrived and has been broken up. Several nurses are at No. 15 where the op. and shock teams are usually assembled. How I would love to see them!

Things are doing at the front and here too, although we don't hear guns. I wish I could tell you about things here. You know how many we came with--well we have about 1/3 of that number more and we have nearly seven times as many patients as our unit was supposed to care for.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and I wish I could see you. I am sure you are well, and I hope you are happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I hope you will find this letter interesting.

I wouldn't have supposed it possible to accomplish what we do. It has been a revelation and an education.

Sunday I had an invitation to go to a neighboring chateau to see the vintage but a big medical convoy came in the day before so everybody was working, even Mother although her job was mostly in the office.

Those who knew Chick who was in the O.P.D. will be interested to hear that he is now a Lieutenant. Captain O'Neal is now a Major and we are hoping to hear soon that our Lieutenants are made Captains. They ought to be! People with half their ability and experience came over as Captains and Majors. Captain Lunt is here now--came as patient and is now acting as ward surgeon.

Miss Rafuse was detached from us sometime ago with six other nurses. She was back for a day this week and said she was going to headquarters to ask to be sent home. Don't know if she will be allowed. I must stop now although there is much more I would like to write.

Much love to all my friends with a special slice for you and my immediate family.

I wouldn't have expected it would be so complicated what we do.
It has been a revelation and an education.

Anyway, I had an idea to go to a restaurant
to see the manager. It was a very nice place and
the day before we were working, even though it was
hot, we were able to do it.

Those who know Bill who was in the C.I. will be
interested to hear that he is now a Lieutenant. Captain (Hill)
is now a Major and we are hoping to hear soon that
Lieutenant (Hill) is now a Captain. They are all doing
very well in their military and experience came over as Captain
and Major. Captain Hill is now a Lieutenant and is
now active as a Major.

Miss (Hill) was detached from the unit with
six other nurses. She was back for a day this week and said
she was going to be a Lieutenant as a result of her work. I
know it was well as a result. I don't know how much more
is there more I would like to know.

With love to all my friends with a special one
to you and your family.

WITTE

Base 26
Nov. 20, 1918

My dear Helen Wood:-

Your letter of Nov. 2nd was greedily received and read with great satisfaction. It is so good to know that the epidemic is subsiding. I was crazy to get news and yet frightened to hear what had happened. Just think what a toll among our graduates - five! and perhaps more of whom we hear. Many nurses have died over here but so far as I can learn, none of ours.

Many of our unit are tired and half sick but fortunately since Lucy's death, none have been on the R. F. Misses Haines, Shryver, Louie and Gardiner are in Cannes & we have a long list for sick leave as soon as it can be obtained. Do you know Miss Haines and Miss Ricker - L. H. Nurses?

I have grown very fond of both of them & Edna R. is my right hand. (I am calling most of the nurses by their first names and it seems a lot more human & friendly!)

Miss Rafuse was a great disappointment. I will tell you about it when I see you.

When we had to detach some of the nurses it seemed best to send her as one of them thinking a change of environment would be a good thing but it didn't work out & after being transferred once or twice after that I hear that she went back to Amer. I hope she will go back to Miss R. and be happy ever after!

She thinks she was badly used and disgraced by being transferred, but that all rested with her - as to what she said & did - we said nothing detrimental to her in any way when she

Sept. Seven nurses have been transferred to us from a different unit & most of them made good here. Two had to be sent home eventually on account of health. This place is not exactly a health resort nor a rest cure. Misses Conrick, Robertson & Borton are back. They all look well but they have had a very hard time and show nerve strain, but no more than most of those who have stayed here at the Base & would have given anything to go to the front. I don't know why we were all so anxious to be under shell fire but there were few exceptions. Miss McEwan is also back & Miss Hapaligan came as a pt., the train having come here up. Misses Morgan, Thompson, May & McLeall are at No. 15 & want to be transferred here. I am going to try & get them of course.

You can't imagine how queer it seemed to read your letter as if the war was going on & as if we physically got some of the periods. I should love to have them if we were to stay but somehow we feel as if we should be home soon for demobilization is going on so rapidly. "Isn't it great" to have it over? I have to stop everything once in a while and think how splendid it is that no one is being shot up and gassed any more and that the Huns are "licked & licked good". I didn't dislike the military regime so much & I should want to stay over and go into the occupied territory or to Italy. What a disappointment it will be to the nurses who are all ready to come over if they don't get a chance.

I had a long & interesting letter from Miss Jamieson today. She has a Cgd for a C.O. and wants a change - but she has signed on for another 3 years. She says her health is better in this cold and wet than when she was in comfortable hospital positions. She has heard that Mrs. Crane is married to an enlisted man but the rumor is not corroborated. Helen Parks is over here somewhere.

Major Cabot has been the best friend that ever a lot of nurses could have had. As for me, since Col. W. left there have been times I have thought I couldn't stand it if it hadn't been for him and the loyalty of the nurses. Talk about fighting! All the fighting hasn't been in the trenches - or over the top. The S. O. S. has its battles! We fight for every stick of wood, for every quart of gasoline (for our little oil stoves), for food and for supplies of all kinds - Alcohol is prohibited absolutely for bathing backs & some of the nurses use it themselves. There seems to be a system of economy carried over at the expense of nurses' time and nerves.

I think Col. W. made one big mistake, attaching the Nurses' H.Q. to the main kitchen - I hope he didn't do it in his other hospitals - It worked very well while he was here & when there weren't many pts. - & only the original nurses, but since then it has worked very badly & I hear that in other places where the mess is separate & run by the nurses themselves they live very well within the government allowance. It is sad how soon we begin to think of our personal & petty trials after our great anxiety about the war is removed! From July 15 up to Nov. 11 nothing mattered but the progress of the Allies - I thought nothing else would matter ever again if the Allies were victorious & here I am going on about our mess! Poor human nature.

We are having a much easier time now - only about 3000 pts mostly convalescent. At present we are not receiving convuls - nor sending any away but we expect to begin again in a few days & be very busy. For awhile we got train loads right from the front, trench clerk, cooties and all. We hope those who come after this will leave the cooties behind them.

Major Cabot has been wanting to do something for the nurses feeling that they had done so well they deserved some appreciation - so he gave me 1000 francs for them to spend on "eggs" when I give them a "long day" off duty. We are improving this easy time to get in long days & each pair of nurses gets 25 francs for her dinner in town & they are all Xmas shopping like mad.

R. P. Acedo 15th. S. C.

Oct. 25, 1918.

My dear Miss Wood:-

It is awfully good of you to take time to write to me when you are so overworked - I am sure you are having a harder time than we are. Our statistics as to numbers of pts. per nurse would stagger you but our advantage is in not having a Dr. Sch. to run. There was a time when I thought differently. I looked about & saw good teaching material etc & felt it was being wasted without students but now my greatest comfort is that my staff tho' only half again as large as when I started, is a graduate staff and a very good one. You know the No. of pts. our orig. staff was intended to nurse - well we have had 8 times that no. We have done a good deal of scientific work too. Our nurses have not been called up much nights altho. the op. room team take turns in being on call. For the past few weeks ~~weeks~~ the nurses have had but little off duty time but they usually get a half day once a week. M. R. Kelly has the phys. dressing room. Miss Ladd the O. R. with Miss Townsend for nurse & shower room.

The nurses do almost all the dressings and on med. ward do the chest tapings etc. We have had lots of "flu" but have lost only one of our own personnel - that was a corps man who has had all sorts of uninteresting dread gear to do since coming over. It seemed rather more pathetic than when one who has been at the front dies.

I think you must have had super human strength when you or you never could have kept up under the strain you have borne.

It used to almost put me out of business to have one nurse on the H. L. and if it is any comfort for you to know I want to tell you that I never could have accomplished what you have. I was practically at the end of my strength when I left and over here I have had an easy time compared with anything I ever did before & still I have no reserve strength & often feel very futile and worse than useless.

If I could be of more use by going home I should be glad to go & have offered to give up leaving I should be glad to do this winter if I stayed, but it was decided that even half duty (if nec. to keep about) was desirable in the unit. I suppose there is a kind of stress & strain in service over here, away from one's home, that has to be considered & the nurses - especially the ^{original} bunch - think they can "carry on" as long as I stay. I am afraid we have been too conservative about "leaves" - none have had more than one week of real vacation & some have had none. I don't think those who haven't had a change of service & environment stand present conditions as well as the others. All those who go away are glad to get back. Undoubtedly we have a great deal to be thankful for but we have plenty of petty troubles and hard work. I wish you would settle down for keeps at the M. S. H. - you ought to have a L. O. C. before you break down - but for me - old & tired as I shall be after this war, the idea of taking up that work again seems preposterous. I would have sent in my resignation before this except that Washburn seemed to think I ought not to do so & when they didn't reject me I shot they had saved me the trouble! I love the school better than anything as you know & that is one reason why I want you to stay. I expect love to work for it from the outside.

Many thanks for the history paper they are very interesting & much better than the seniors could have written 4 or 5 years ago. I am charmed to hear of the quality of the prob. & the no. of C. S. in spite of our 3 year requirement. The only thing that you expect that I do not thoroughly rejoice in is the 20 yr. limit. Feeling that it is character & breeding that count most of all I am sure you will lose some splendid girls by rejecting all the 19 yr. olds. All of them cannot afford to keep on in school or college & will go elsewhere. Among our most valued graduates are many who entered in their 20th year - for instance, Carrie Banta, Helene Gedde, M. R. Kelley, Olga Olsen, Hope Remqui, Dorothy Farbox are among the best of this staff in health, judgment, disposition and ability.

I could go on with others like Edith Hamblin, one of the Craig Hills etc. Of course even I wouldn't wish the whole school composed of infants but so many of them have been a joy & comfort to me that my heart goes out to them & I should personally never reject one on the score of age alone. If she had all the other desirable attributes - I think you have built up a wonderful staff and the support of such women will help you to win out even

in the face of this awful epidemic.
We have had it also and it was noticeable
that those who were housed together in large
rooms were the victims rather than those
who, cared for the pts. & "flee" - We lost an
exhausted man unfortunately but thus far
the personnel has not had the most virulent
type of the disease. We miss Miss Emery
very much - I hope she will be able to go
back to you.

I have written many letters to you & several
to Miss McEbrae. I am quite sure my letters
are not all reaching America. I am sorry
because it must seem as if I didn't appre-
ciate what you all have done for us over
here. Mr. Balch's Unit - Nursing Personnel -
fared badly after they arrived in France.
I hear they have been scattered & that sev-
eral got or were sick. I have written to
Miss Gray once & to Miss Richardson three
but have had no answer. I do not know
whether both fell victims to the "flee" but I
heard that Adele was sick at 44 Base.
We are still enjoying the Xmas boys about
which I cabled & wrote. I found by comparing
the list of contents that we only got 57 jars of
jam when we should have had 72 & the fruit
cakes have not come at all & there was only
one Geo. Wash. can of coffee.

I hope we can celebrate the declaration of
peace this Xmas.

You, Miss McEbrae, Miss Leay & hundreds of
other nurses ought to have the Purple Stripes.
Seen day the 27/ Misses Nivison & Matheson came
back last night much to our delight & they
say it is like getting back to heaven. We think
it a very crowded & confused heaven. The M. S. H. hospital
or transference is concentrated here. Much love to all S&P

U. S. Base Hosp. #6
Corner E. H. France
December 13, 1918.

Dearest Sally Johnson, If you are not
a victim of "flu" or a nervous wreck
from all your over work, I certainly
am thankful. When it occurred
to me that I had not sent you a Xmas
letter I was appalled because there
is no one outside my sister to whom
my thoughts turn more lovingly.

It will take another incarnation to
hear the experiences of you, Annabelle
and other friends who having been
doing interesting things at home
while I have been gathering moss
over here. You will observe that I
have staid "put" while C. M. H. has
been running back & forth across the
channel not too much in love with
any of her jobs. I am dying to see her
but don't think my chances are over
good. The original antiquers of #6
are hoping our summons to home,
sweet home may come soon -

It has been getting easier & easier
ever since Nov. 11 - the greatest day the
world has ever seen.
I hope every body will be able to get in

at least one vacation before we break up.
There are several who have been in the service over a year without a vacation -
Must everyone go to Nice. I hope in the not distant future to go to Leamington & from there see a few other places of interest.

I have a darling niece at home that I am longing to see - isn't it nice to have a baby in the family? I now not only have the "Endowment" to work for (harder than ever) but my niece -

How our nurses are scattered around over the world! I hear of them in many places and two are in units not far from here.

Four of my youngsters who recently came over have been assigned here & why they haven't arrived I can't imagine. I heard not long ago that Jessie Clark had been seen recently looking very handsome & it was said that she is "taking notice again".

While you were having the "flu" at home we were having out baptism of war work plus "flu". It was awful but the flu that our own people had was not of the virulent type that the pts. had who came from the boats. We lost one of our corps men & nearly lost another but that was easy compared with some

other units & hospitals at home.

Talk about work - I never heard of anything like it before. The nearest was my own training school days but the strain of this was much heavier.

It didn't lighten up too soon - many of the nurses will need a long time to convalesce and rest before they are fit for hard work again.

I am wondering what the effect of this whole experience will be upon us - I fear few are in a mental or physical condition to go home to the same jobs and do them well. I've had two interesting letters

from Miss Jamieson who is over here quite unhappily situated. She has signed on for 3 years more.

I & I were going & the nursing staff in the army to be reorganized & I should like to stay over in the Army of Occupation but not as it is now much as I like novelty. As for that I am not fit for army work unless they can assign me to a better climate than Bordeaux.

I am just up again from another bronchial cold. Am missing various festivities of course.

We had 15 splendid nurses with us for about 6 months from Base 13 (Chicago Presbyterian) & they left Monday for home base. We gave them a pretty tea Sunday

Tonight there is a chance & the music
seems as very good as it floats in to my
room.

Margaret Wilson sang for us a few
days ago and we found her very
charming - the boys liked her immensely
& her program was well chosen
& she spoke to them very well.

The procession from ward to ward in
the afternoon was amusing with
the little organ that preceded us &
the enormous basket of wilted crysan-
themums that followed us which
some unfortunate officer was obliged
to distribute to the pts. after the singing.
The basket was so big two men had
to lug it. When our Co. took the wrong
direction & didn't connect up with the
organ the result was a little awkward.

There is lots I should like to tell you
about the work & the unit but time &
strength forbid so I shall have to wait
until our next meeting.

Dear Girl, this letter brings you my
warmest love and all good wishes
for your holiday season. I hope the
New Year will be full of blessings -
Sincerely,
E. P.

R. P. Hand "1st S. C."

U.S. Base Hospital No. 6

Dec. 14, 1918

Wilson's Way France

My dear Miss Wood:-

It was so good to get your letter even tho' it was a little one. Thank you for the check which will probably be spent for Xmas decorations for our H. P. & Hut. I think I told Miss McEwen that the last Xmas box came in separate parcels from the Red Cross in Paris. The cakes were ruined.

We think eyed hope that our Unit will be ordered home in a few weeks and oh how glad I shall be to see you all.

How I wish we might get there for graduation but I don't think there is the slightest chance of our going before March or April.

While I am sure you need a long rest more than I as far as having worked for it goes, I am quite certain I ought not to take any kind of a job - much less so important a one as the M. E. H. Dr. Sch. without several months for rest and brushing up.

I haven't forgotten my itinerary! If the trustees won't let me have the necessary time to get in shape to take the school again, I shall either resign outright or go back temporarily - much depending on you. Ever since I have been over here

except for about 3 months split up into
periods of 3 or 4 weeks I have had a cough &
cough. I have just been off duty a week
with a bronchial cold - not in my head
at all - with a temp. ranging around
102. I expect next week to go on sick
leave to Leanne. Mr. White says if we
go home in Feb. or March I ought to go
South for a couple of months then per-
haps I could do my itinerary, brush up
at S. C. & be ready for work Jan. 1st.

How does that sound to you? To be
sure it sounds a long way off now but
time passes so quickly it will soon be
here. I wrote Col. W. recently that our
school was no job for a played out, devital-
ized old woman - I am however longing
to see you and to have a regular talk just

Bottled up as I have been I dread to
think what is going to happen when the
lid is taken off. I wish you might read
Miss Garrison's letters. The most natural
thing that has happened to me over here
was a call for help from her - not that she
ever called before but it was like old
times to have someone wanting me to help
them out of a disagreeable situation.

I believe she is staying on.
We have had about 20 casualties added
to us during the past week and Messrs
Morgan, McCall, Mayo and Thompson

have been promised to us.

Recently we rec^d a circular restricting the uniform very closely & requiring either grey or dark blue sweaters - no jewelry, no flowers & no furs and these new people have come over with colored sweaters & fingers bedecked with rings -

One unit at Nice had lovely fur collars on their jackets! The uniform could hardly be a more hopeless muddy - Every contingent has a different equipment & different rules.

I do wish you could drop in on us before we break up house keeping - I think you would like my room. It is a cheerful looking corner at least with a red bed cover - a red puff - red curtains over my clothes shelf and a grey fur rug on the floor.

All my \$80. - (except insurance & lib. bonds allotments) have gone into warm things -

What I ever tell you of my leather footmuff lined e lambs wool? I shall have to part with these friends but I bring them home you will send me back to Labrador I fear.

Two of our people are just back from Nice where they have had a wonderful time -

Our nurses who are on the train are having an interesting time - some of the time - They have been kept near the Lewis

border bringing back prisoners - among
them two men we know.

I hope Miss Brooks's brother has come
back well.

Yesterday we had a nice amateur con-
cert in our Rec. Hall at tea time -
Some of the nurses brought in two boys (pts.)
one of whom had a beautiful cultivated
voice and the other plays the violin very
well. He is a phlegmatic case & has lost
his memory for many things. He has forgot-
ten where he comes from - He remembers
vaguely that he played in some symphony
orchestra but doesn't know where.

Miss Gammon played accompaniment
Miss Melville & Miss Walden sang -

The violinist could play an obligato to
anything - it was pitiful to see his face
twice & to hear him try to talk but with
the prospect of good recovery one can bear
it. Yesterday a nice letter came from Miss
Wheeler who has been having a wonderful
time & is now in the Language School.

I hope her health will be equal to the task
she has undertaken -

Many thanks for the check & the magazines -
When we are ordered home the books can
be changed back to the school - Letters &
magazines have been our greatest pleasure -

Hoping to see you all before many
months have passed.

O.K. Salyer, A.P.S.,
2nd AS, USA.

Louise Yano,
Eileen E. Parsons

Hotel Suisse
Bernes, 3 Jan. 1919.

You poor dear! After reading your
burning protest of Nov. 30th I really feel
mean to have worried you so -

You will have to forgive me because it
is really because I desire the best good
for the school that I have tried to shift
the burden to your younger shoulders
and better trained head -

If I am going back to the school to
stay any length of time I ought not to
take it up until I have had time to rest
and to brush up, but I won't give it up -
if they want me to stay - until you or
someone who can do the work better than
I will take it - I have hopes - from the
Wage Stiggins blow - that we may be ordered
back in Feb. In that case I could rest
between then and July or August &
go back, if you would come back to me
after a good long vacation.

You have no idea how helpless I feel
after this year & a half of army work - it
doesn't seem to me I could even learn
the names of the nurses, say nothing of
getting hold of the details of the work -

You have done wonders and I don't
want anything to slip backward -

to catch cold. The sun sets promptly
at 4 p.m. and the fog rises cool &
damp. We left No. 6 the 19th of Dec.
stopping for a day in Livignon - a
beautiful old town which used to be
the headquarters of the papists in the
14th Cent. We (another sick nurse)
arrived here the 21st & it rained for
the first time today. We ought to have
started back this morning but it was
impossible to get reservations before the
6th so our leave was extended & we go
back via Paris. I hope to see Miss Hall
when I get there. Am disappointed
that she could not come down here with
me.

I think it has rained all the
time every where else in France during
the last 3 months. Rain & mud!

The Riviera is given over to Americans
Officers, men & nurses fill the streets of
Cannes, Nice & Mentone.

We had a wonderful ride the 30th to
Monte Carlo, Monaco, Nice & Mentone
over the Corniche road.

Much of the scenery is so like California
that it is no wonder that one of the mountains
is named La Californie.

There are two other very beautiful trips
that we have enjoyed -

Xmas day (which wasn't like Xmas
at all) 20 of us went in a truck to

I don't know how you have lived through
the strain of this past year which has
been enough to kill any one, and I suppose
there have been all the usual petty
annoyances as well -

I am delighted to hear that the P. H. is
going to open up to children - I wonder
if we won't be able to inculcate some
pupil nurses into the children's & mater-
nity depts. - It seems to me if our pupils
are acceptable in a private hosp. like
Western Maternity, they ought to do very
well at home. The P. H. must have been
one bright spot during all these troublous
times. How I should like to appear to you
at graduation! It is going to take a long
time to hear all about all the things
that have happened since I left - inclu-
ding your experiences with Mr. Hughes.
You will have to spend at least a week
and with me soon after I get back.

Miss McEneaney got the letter I wrote her
you will have heard that I am or, sick
down in Cannes. I wasn't very sick, but
I had a bronchial cold & ran a temp. for
about a week & coughed a good deal.
I am having a good time altho' I long
for some congenial friend to enjoy this
beautiful country with - I haven't much
pep and am very lazy about my
housekeeping - even down here it is very easy

Lorges du Lurp through Lacaze, the
city of perfumes - It is up in the moun-
tains and wonderfully picturesque.

The other was to the Lorient Is.
We had a perfect day for the sail
going over in the morning and coming
back at sunset -

It is a beautiful world in spite of
Huns & Bolsheviks - I hope you will get
over and see it all before long.

I am very sorry not to have seen the
front but I have so much to be thankful
for I mustn't grumble. Lots of my chil-
dren have been right in the thick of all
the excitement. A letter from Miss
Rodger today tells me she & Miss Olsen
spent Sunday in Metz the week after
the French occupation. She also succe-
ed in spending her leave in Scotland
and the pupils are very strict against
nurses going to Great Britain -

In some ways the Units working in
Eng. hospitals had the advantage over
the A. E. F. They got more leaves & they
were allowed to go to Eng. Ireland &
Scotland & had an easier time as the
Eng. system is much simpler in army
work than ours. I can hardly wait to
hear the purwar when the nurses all get
back to Amer. & meet in Convention next
year. Well, cheer up, dear, we won't
make you stay forever at the M. S. H. but I
certainly know what your special objection is!
Sincerely yours, Sara E. Parsons

U.S. Base Hosp. No. 208
(Formerly Base 6)
Salence (near Bordeaux)
Feb. 4, 1919.

My dear Miss Wood:-

When I arrived yesterday from a delightful week in Paris I was so glad to find a nice bunch of letters & among them yours. It is quite like you to be willing to martyrize your self yet another several months and so I do truly think it would be a good thing for the school for me to rest and break up if I am to go back to it, we will just wait until Col. W. gets back and I am released from the Army before deciding any thing.

He has another month to "carry on" in England & does not expect to take us back because we are now waiting for orders to move.

Miss Stimson had me ordered up to Paris where I had a jolly time. Miss Helano was there and I heard about nursing affairs at home for the first time - there is much that would make sad reading. She unfortunately developed a middle ear, from which she recovered nicely & was ordered down to Nice last Wednesday.

She let me use her room while she was away during the rest of my stay in Paris.

Such good pay - words as I had with Miss Hall & Miss Stimson too - Miss S. Shaver a nice apart-ment to her brother & some friends when she is in P. & has a bit of home life as the maid is a splendid cook & housekeeper. Miss H. is also very comfort-able but up altho she would like more heat.

Leol. Washburn was also in the new family group metropolis & I had a nice dinner & visit with him. He was looking splendidly, but feels I think much as I do - as if he could hardly go back & tackle the old and the new problems that await him if he goes back to the M. S. H. We both realize however that you & Mr. Howland have had the harder time. The most thrilling experience last week was the day in Reims about which I hope I can tell you before many weeks have passed.

I also found the dearest and I think the nurses have done pretty well in pegging away at the E. F. in spite of the war. I feel badly at not having paid in anything lately and if I do have my sabbatical? I don't see how I can do anything this year.

There has been much that I have wanted to write that has been forbidden but now I may venture I think to give you a few ^{facts}. When we arrived we found this hospital accommodating 900 or 1000 pts & we talked in figures of 1200 + as Leol. W's ideas expanded and demands came in from H's girts this figure grew as barracks increased to 1500, then 2000 until finally the day the armistice was signed Nov. 11 we had our maximum no. of pts 4319!! At that time we had 107 ^{nurses} on duty - some sick & away of course.

The nurses were splendid - the way they stretched themselves over the place was marvellous -

We concentrated the nurses on the "fly" wards of course because there were no convalescents there to help with 4 nurses to 70 pts - most of them delirious, we felt we were doing pretty well - I hate to mention any one nurse because all of them worked to the limit but at the moment it occurs to me how Miss Gardiner stuck to one of the worst medical wards where there were from 15 to 17 deaths a day for some time - She is not especially strong but she kept up amazingly & was usually quite cheerful but since then she has had a long period of depression both physically & mentally.

Several got sick & the rest were on the ragged edge - We didn't even have maids to help out & only one French Aid. You would be surprised to know how

many extra things the nurses managed to do for the patients even when they were so busy they had to take their time off duty or in the late evening to make doughnuts, cakes, pies and ice-cream - Miss Lovle with apt's help one evening made 400 doughnuts!! They brought the materials at the commissary's of course -

Another day she & Miss Healey who was high priestess of the War Kitchen made 14 frosted lemon pies & they were good, believe me I know because I was invited to the party.

I could go on & on & on telling about the unselfish kindness of all the nurses & the appreciation of the boys if I had time & the beauty of it is that from what I hear this kind of spirit has permeated most if not all the units. The doctors were much overworked & were for the most part very devoted to their patients -

This is not a vainglorious eulogy of the original No. 6 for by this time of heavy work we were much diluted & while all did not measure up to a high standard, the majority were fine.

A nice feeling has existed between the corps men and the nurses. Thanksgiv-
& Christmas the nurses have decorated the men's dining room & waited on table for them & this last Thanksgiving they gave the men a delightful tea - as pretty as any I have even seen.

The men on their part have given entertain- 2
ments for the nurses and their "jazz-band"
(which is very good) has been most obliging
at the officers' & nurses' dances.

We celebrated the 14th of Jan. our last
night as U.S.B.H. No. 6 by a dance & the
nurses gave an excellent dinner to the
band & in the center of the table there was
a large basket of jack roses and ribbons
extended from the basket to each plate.
When the ribbons were pulled a pretty
Spanish scarp pin was discovered for each
man & a brooch for May Rose Kelly - the one
female member of the orchestra.

Col. Cabot and three guests of honor
seated at each end of the table -
Col. C. got a ballet girl cut out of wood &
hand painted by a soldier and got a
very fine looking chaplain!

These were gifts from the officers.
Col. Davis is carrying the burden of our
unit on his shoulders & it is quite a
load for he took us over at quite a
critical time. If I should explain
why I should outrage the censors.

We have lost some of our bright &
shining lights - Lts. White, Kinger,
Lamb and Hodgson have gone on a
commission to Macedonia.

Capt. Wright is going to Palau.

Misses Pitman, Buchanan & Haines are

destined for Italy and Miss Shapelt for Palestine.
The latter had a dreadful time to get a passport
& it wasn't until Col. Washburn & Col. McJee
swore that she was an American citizen that she
succeeded. I saw Muriel Salt a few moments
in Paris and lunched with Bessie Mc Lennan
one day. They were both looking very well.

Hazel Manuel who has been over here a long time
in various units has married an aviator - Flyder-
stead she is on her way home but is coming back as
a civilian for her husband is to be stationed over here
some time.

I wish you could see what a humming, buzzing
crowd we have now. Col. H. has given 12 of the
nurses special orders for a 3 days leave so they can
see something more of France.

All our detached nurses are now back and every
one of the original unit & in Unit D were much behind
in letters so Col. H. is doing the best he can to make
it up to us.

Have you seen Miss Stimmer's book? It is her letters
to her family while she was with the B. E. F.

She gave me a copy and I enjoyed them ^(the letters) very
much. She gives a vivid picture of a nurse's life
over here & with few changes it could be adapted
to many of the Base Hospitals in the A. E. F.

All the Units were not as harmonious as hers but
I think ours has been - We have missed Col. W. terribly
but Col. Cabot remained as our strong support -

The once that I had to weep, I wept on Col. Cabot!!!
Only I was weeping with rage!

I am so sorry to hear about Mary Emery and I feel
so guilty for not having written of her - I finished
a long letter before I went to P. & to my disgust found
it on my bureau when I returned.

I ought to write to Sally Johnson who has been sick
& who sent a most interesting letter during her
convalescence to Miss Hall & me.

Miss Waldren is just running around our
barracks distributing the last of the tooth paste,
soap & powder of year before last Xmas box.

I haven't quite finished Mrs. Howland's chocolate
buds which I have kept for special times.

You ought to see the scene at present -

The stove in the center of our barrack has
a lively fire - I am on one side writing,
Miss Seldinger, in her bath robe is in front
reading. Miss Weaver is washing
out some clothes and Mary Jane
McKay is taking a shower -

The benches are parked between
the wash bowls & toilets - Laundry
drying fills the space between the
showers & telephone so that it really
requires skill to navigate between
the numerous obstructed animals
& inanimate. The corridor extending
from the center where the stove is, is
pretty well filled with trunks for the
"leavers" are instructed to have every
thing packed & ready to move at an
hours notice. Prof. H. wants his fam-
ily all together the 10th - altho' we have
as yet no definite or days.

Oh, there are so many things I want
to tell you! Hasten the day of automob-
ilization - I suppose Camp Weaver
will be our fate for a while when we
get back - Was much interested in
Campbell's article - I wonder if that
was the 1st school! I think the G. H. H.
people think one of their nurses started the
first - Well, I must bid you a fond
good-night - Much love to all yours S.E.P.

4

I have heard recently from
Miss Louise May who has been
in a French hosp. in the army
zone having bright & exciting ex-
periences. She has learned the
Embryne treatment & has charge
of a ward & the grander blessed
Miss Grace Nichols has been in a
cabin in the same region
spending most of her nights in
damp wine caves. She may be
down here soon.

Miss Field hasn't come back to us
yet & 10 other nurses are away.
A letter came from Miss Hall
recently & she says the city
where she is, is almost evac-
uated by civilians & things look'd
very scary for a while but are
quieter now.

How I wish you could be here
with us if there were another
like you to head the school together
who please love it and stick to it
with you get the University of
Illinois perfected etc. etc. When
I go back I want to go on the road for
the Government! Love to you &
all the family including Mr. Hargland-



Greetings from
France -

Sara E. Parsons

CARTE POSTALE

Correspondance

Adresse

Dear Miss Wood: I hasten in person
to thank you for your nice letter
and description of Xmas boxes.
"You all" are pleased to "we-uns"
and we appreciate. The Red Cross has
given us money to furnish our recreation
room so we now have some easy chairs
and going to have an attractive room.
Love & thanks to every body - Will write as
soon as boxes come - L.E.P.

Autochir No. 7, B. C. M.
France, May 5, 1918.

Dear old Family:-

I read your letters over and over again and each trip find some juicy little bit I'd overlooked. They are regular life-savers and keeping faith ever renewed in your faith in me and my feeble attempts. It's wonderful to have a family so loving and trusting in you, fully believing you will and are doing your best. That is all I need to make me keep up to the scratch.

As our hours on duty are so insistent we can't go very far on trips, but day before yesterday I took a chance and took a long bic. ride to a beautiful chateau ten miles from here through the most marvelous woods - a straight, wonderful wood on a beautiful spring day, but it was bumpy and before long I took off my leather coat and sat on it. Just this other nurse and myself - we found a little Inn. At the Inn we ate a nice dinner and happened to meet a captain Doctor from the hospital who took us all through the marvelous chateau, even took our pictures with the turrets and drawbridges in the background.

Yesterday being Sunday in a nearby field the French had an exhibition of games, foot-ball, races, hurdling, etc., regular field day stunts. Dr. Clark and I went to that and what was funny was the fact that everybody was a soldier. I was the only woman among thousands of soldiers, and it was such fun I didn't feel at all bashful. A wonderful mounted officer came up to us and invited us to tea at a neighboring chateau where their headquarters were. But being the only lady, and not having a hat, I didn't go, but I wish I had as I heard afterwards that they asked for us. But we went to town for supper and had a good meal, which stunt is very necessary once in a while the meals being rather poor.

May 18, 1918.

Every once in a while I look back on my former life and remember things I used to do. Once I recall having taken two baths in one day and one of those was hot - imagine that! And if I remember rightly I sat in some kind of a porcelain tub with water all around. Again, didn't we used to have some sort of white drapery on the table where we ate with smaller ones in our laps to catch the food - and bread out in tender, slim white slices with butter on a small side dish? Also didn't we used to change our bed linen about once a week at least? Well, this I have now has seen service a month and is still going strong. I just like to recall these things to mind. I haven't had any vacation yet and seven days are due me every four months - I've been here eleven months - and they aren't accumulative. As I've often said before, I'm a lucky dog, and I realize it. Those people who haven't yet been away from B-- are probably stillcrabbing the life out of me. It's not my fault. But I will admit I'm sure getting out of a lot of drudgery, and in a way it is the people that do the steady, routine work faithfully and well that will win this horrible old war.

-: r l i n e : o f c : m a p :

SCOPE OF PLAN

We get so now that we quite enjoy a few bombs dropped in the neighboring city. I mean at once we don't realize all it means and in the "Fourth-of-July" sense enjoy the flash and noise. When they come in all mangled and curse the Boche as they go under ether - then I come to my senses and rue the day this bloody war started.

The French avions do wonderful stunts in the air over us - one turned completely over backwards three times and swooped down almost to the roofs of the houses. I would not care to do that. I'm keeping up with my base-ball practise-play most every day so that I'll be able to go in for that when I get home. Am really quite good at it - will show you when I get home, just keep waiting. As for work - as you know it all depends on the cruel Boche, and "preparedness" is our motto.

May 23, 1918.

At this moment am sitting out on the back terrace of our chateau - a fine, cool wind blowing, beautiful sun shining, overlooking a ploughed field, with a marvelously green woods beyond on a hill. And somewhere in the woods a French band is playing some fascinating, marching music. Part of the field in the foreground is planted with clover which is all in blossom - a most charming deep pink - and scattered all through the grass of the lawn and terrace are thousands of stunning poppies. Will enclose a sketch of the front of our chateau - it is much more elaborate than I could draw it. It is made of a pink brick and around all the doors and windows is an elaborate facing of white stone.

May 25 or 26.

Scenery is the same around here, just a little greener and more flowers scattered through the grass. Went for a long bicycle ride today to a neighboring hospital and they showed some huge holes where bombs had been quite near. Gruesome sight! They were on a hill where you heard all the sounds of the front lines and could even see over into the trenches of the hated Hun with field glasses.

Have you read "Dere Mable" by E. Streeter? You want to, because they are awfully good and too true almost to be funny.

Saw a Boche prisoner today, too, an aviator whose plane had been brought down near us and he had escaped. I almost smiled at him before I realized who he was.

There are the most wonderful woods here. Rode for miles in them this afternoon - just like fairy land.

May 25, 1918.

Last night was quite exciting. There were several Boche planes over and the French were hot on the trail, firing both from

We got so now that we quite enjoy a few bombs dropped in the neighboring city. I mean at once we don't realize all it means and in the "Fourth-of-July" sense enjoy the flash and noise. When they come in all mangled and curse the Boche as they go under ether - then I come to my senses and rue the day this bloody war started.

The French aviators do wonderful stunts in the air over us - one turned completely over backwards three times and swooped down almost to the roofs of the houses. I would not care to do that. I'm keeping up with my base-ball practice-play most every day so that I'll be able to go in for that when I get home. Am really quite good at it - will show you when I get home, just keep waiting. As for work - as you know it all depends on the cruel Boche, and "preparedness" is our motto.

May 25, 1918.

At this moment am sitting out on the back terrace of our chateau - a fine, cool wind blowing, beautiful sun shining, overlook- ing a ploughed field, with a marvelously green woods beyond on a hill. And somewhere in the woods a French band is playing some fascinating, marching music. Part of the field in the foreground is planted with clover which is all in blossom - a most charming deep pink - and scattered all through the grass of the lawn and terrace are thousands of stunning poppies. Will enclose a sketch of the front of our chateau - it is much more elaborate than I could draw it. It is made of a pink brick and around all the doors and windows is an elaborate facing of white stone.

May 25 or 26.

Scenery is the same around here, just a little greener and more flowers scattered through the grass. Went for a long bicycle ride today to a neighboring hospital and they showed some huge holes where bombs had been quite near. Grossness aghast! They were on a hill where you heard all the sounds of the front lines and could even see over into the trenches of the hated Hun with field glasses.

Have you read "Dere Mable" by E. Streeter? You want to, because they are awfully good and too true almost to be funny.

Saw a Boche prisoner today, too, an aviator whose plane had been brought down near us and he had escaped. I almost smiled at him before I realized who he was.

There are the most wonderful woods here. Boche for miles in them this afternoon - just like fairy land.

May 25, 1918.

Last night was quite exciting. There were several Boche planes over and the French were hot on the trail, firing both from

anti-aircraft guns on the ground and the gun on the machines. However, we received no bombs. We are comparatively safe, being away by ourselves, not near any objective, hence we aren't counting on being annihilated completely quite yet. It did seem a little bit like war last night with all this noise going on above and below, the constant crunching of wagons on the flint road, wearily dragging their heavy camions filled with supplies, or men, for the front, a never ceasing sound all through the night. Today the road is lined with dust-covered wagons for miles, and in the ditches and fields sleep the tired drivers - the object being to travel by night only.

June 1, 1918.

Mother's letter of May 5th hit the nail on the head as to place and excitement. But what I don't understand is what there is of interest in my letters to make you thrill. I only wish I could write all that I see, feel and think. It is too horrible to be able to even attempt to describe it all - that is why I am everlastingly grateful for the opportunity to be here just where I am. It is impossible to not be here and ever imagine what it is like. Words can never describe, nor can pictures. All of this is going to do something, but just what nobody knows. It seems as though those at the front who see things so unspeakably horrible would go absolutely insane. It must make over their entire internal workings. Enough of this sad stuff. You see I do admit now that we are working on schedule, being as I wrote you before, 1 A.M. to 7 A.M. and 4-8 P.M.; 7-12 A.M. and 8-1 A.M. 12-4 P.M. and back to 1 A.M. to 7 A.M. In betweentimes we do dressings, if they are not evacuated immediately, and also we are taking turn about specializing an American from California, an aviator - nobody we know. There are some English women who drive ambulances - right through the fire-shells falling all around. What I don't like about a shell is that you hear it coming - the boom as it leaves the cannon, the whirr through the air and then the grand crash as it lands. But to hear one go over your head isn't what I especially care for. Then to think of these ambulance drivers going right through the town and by the places they know are the targets, and can hear the pleggy things arriving - Whoppy!! I don't think my shaky arm would ever crank up my car if I were the one to run it. One driver remarked this morning that if he ever saw the Statue of Liberty he'd never take a ferry boat out for fear it wouldn't come back. Also, while we were at luncheon two dusty, dirty drivers came way down to get a drink of water, and all we had was some luke warm water (boil it to kill the bugs and it hadn't cooled) and so as luncheon wasn't ready I offered them some bread and butter with some ham. It was the first he had had to eat since lunch the day before. They never sleep either - met a man who had been at Howard's camp - a Mr. Prior - met him the next day when I was down looking at a shell hole and he said he was still going, but entirely on nerve now. Incidentally, he had passed that spot just half an hour before it happened. This doesn't mean that we are targets, because we aren't, but we are near enough to know what is going on, and I am sorry you are at home there worrying about us. At least I shall always write you the truth, so don't try to find any camouflaged statements and think things are awful when they aren't.

anti-aircraft guns on the ground and the gun on the machines. However, we received no bombs. We are comparatively safe, being away by ourselves, not near any objective, hence we aren't counting on being annihilated completely quite yet. It did seem a little bit like war last night with all this noise going on above and below, the constant rushing of wagons on the tint road, wearily dragging their heavy cannons filled with supplies, or men, for the front, a never ceasing sound all through the night. Today the road is lined with dust-covered wagons for miles, and in the ditches and fields sleep the tired drivers - the object being to travel by night only.

June 1, 1918.

Mother's letter of May 5th hit the nail on the head as to place and excitement. But what I don't understand is what there is of interest in my letters to make you thrill. I only wish I could write all that I see, feel and think. It is too horrible to be able to even attempt to describe it all - that is why I am everlastingly grateful for the opportunity to be here just where I am. It is impossible to not be here and ever imagine what it is like. Words can never describe, nor can pictures. All of this is going to do something, but just what nobody knows. It seems as though those at the front who see things so unpleasantly horrible would go absolutely insane. It must make over their entire internal workings. Enough of this sad stuff. You see I do admit now that we are working on schedule, being as I wrote you before, I A.M. to 7 A.M. and 4-8 P.M. 7-12 A.M. and 8-1 P.M. 12-4 P.M. and back to 1 A.M. to 7 A.M. In between these two periods, if they are not evacuated immediately, and also we are taking turn about specializing as American from California, an evaluator - nobody we know. There are some English women who drive ambulances - right through the fire-shells falling all around. What I don't like about a shell is that you hear it coming - the boom as it leaves the cannon, the whirr through the air and then the grand crash as it lands. But to hear one go over your head isn't what I especially care for. Then to think of these ambulance drivers going right through the town and by the places they know are the targets, and can hear the plecty things arriving - Whoppy!! I don't think my baby arm would ever crank up as if I were the one to run it. One driver remarked this morning that if he ever saw the Statue of Liberty he'd never take a ferry boat out for fear it wouldn't come back. Also, while we were at Luncheon two dusty, dirty drivers came way down to get a drink of water, and all we had was some lukewarm water (boil it to kill the bugs and it hadn't cooled) and so as luncheon wasn't ready I offered them some bread and butter with some ham. It was the first he had had to eat since lunch the day before. They never sleep either - met a man who had been at Howard's camp - a Mr. Prior - met him the next day when I was down looking at a shell hole and he said he was still going, but entirely on nerve now. Incidentally, he had passed that spot just half an hour before it happened. This doesn't mean that we are targets, because we aren't, but we are near enough to know what is going on, and I am sorry you are at home there worrying about us. At least I shall always write you the truth, so don't try to find any embellished statements and think things are awful when they aren't.

Newly in the

June 12, 1918.

How-do-you-do? Having gone through my birthday successfully I take upon myself another year & the weight is great and I have nothing to show for all that passing of time. I apologize to you, dear ancestors, and promise to do better in my next re-incarnation - jot that down in your memoranda!

Life is beginning to be diverting and interesting, without monotony. In fact, to be brief and to the point, I have moved - had to move - was ordered to move and do it quickly, by carmion with all our baggage, luckily. Projectiles began to arrive uncomfortably near, and as I did my housework around the room, puttering at this thing and that until practically everything was packed, or could be in double quick time, I'd rush to the window when I heard each whirr through the air and watch the nasty thing arrive right across the field from us, then another not far away from that (as far as the old Lord's house from us), and heard two in back of us just the other side of the hospital. At twelve that noon all work had been stopped, so we Americans had planned to have a bang up chicken dinner, peas, etc., at our own chateau, two of the nurses volunteering to cook it. They were down in the kitchen preparing and others were doing a grand laundering when I saw a messenger come running up the driveway - he came to my room and handed me the message which was our order to proceed at once, within half an hour to L²⁴⁷. I circulated around and as everybody was packed we even had time for a light luncheon. There wasn't room for three of the doctors and one enlisted man, so we left them behind. Packed in like sardines we were jounced along a beautiful road through the forest, passing trains of camions with soldiers, guns, supplies, etc., thousands of them. When we arrived at the hospital of our destination we were not expected - no room for us at all, and worst of all no food - it being by this time nine o'clock and we had started at five. Next we hunted up the mayor of the town of *Newly in the* right next to L---, and he billeted us out in families up and down the main street. We three nurses are together in a five roomed one story house of a nice old lady and her grand-child. It is clean and attractive with a courtyard in back where I am now writing and where we eat our breakfast. There is a garden beyond that. They certainly know just how to enjoy plain living. I have a small room with a grand bed (feather bed) and heavy plush furniture, all very neat and grand and all to myself. Can you beat it for discomforts at the front!! I seem to be fated to always be comfortably situated. There is a wash lady next door, and when I thought I was going to have trouble with my one and only pair of shoes which are almost through, I found a cobbler and borrowed a pair of beautiful high tan shoes from one of the nurses, which nearly kill my poor toes. I explained my plight to the cobbler and he liked me so well that he invited me to sit down and entertain him.

I'm ahead of my story. After finding our houses, one and all we proceeded to the Y.M.C.A. headquarters for this district and they gave us the most wonderful eats we've had for two months. We nearly died - there was so much of it and it was so good. To tell the truth our food has been rotten the last two months and our one bone of contention. They even had a Victrola. We also ate breakfast there the next morning and such a feast!! All of this excitement happened the tenth. Since then we eat our meals, walk around the country and await orders. Our meals, except breakfast here, are at

June 12, 1918.

How-do-you-do? Having gone through my birthday successfully I take upon myself another year of the weight is great and I have nothing to show for all that passing of time. I apologise to you, dear ancestors, and promise to do better in my next re-incarnation - I put that down in your memoranda!

Life is beginning to be diverting and interesting, without monotony. In fact, to be brief and to the point, I have moved - had to move - was ordered to move and do it quickly, by command with all our baggage, luckily. Protection began to arrive uncomfortably near, and as I did my housework around the room, putting at this thing and that until practically everything was packed, or could be in double quick time. I'd rush to the window when I heard each whirl through the air and watch the nasty thing arrive right across the field from us, then another not far away from that (as far as the old Lord's house from us), and heard two in back of us just the other side of the hospital. At twelve that noon all work had been stopped, so we Americans had planned to have a bang up chicken dinner, peas, etc., at our own charges, two of the nurses volunteering to cook it. They were down in the kitchen preparing and others were doing a grand laundering when I saw a messenger come running up the driveway - he came to my room and handed me the message which was our order to proceed at once, within half an hour to leave. I circulated around and as everybody was packed we even had time for a light luncheon. There wasn't room for three of the doctors and one enlisted man, so we left them behind. Packed in like sardines we were jammed along a beautiful road through the forest, passing trains of soldiers with soldiers, guns, supplies, etc., thousands of them. Then we arrived at the hospital of our destination we were not expected - no room for us at all, and worst of all no food - it being by this time nine o'clock and we had started at five. Next we hunted up the mayor of the town of Nankin, right next to I---, and he billeted us out in families up and down the main street. We three nurses are together in a five roomed one story house of a nice old lady and her grand-child. It is clean and attractive with a courtyard in back where I am now writing and where we eat our breakfast. There is a garden beyond that. They certainly know just how to enjoy plain living. I have a small room with a grand bed (feather bed) and heavy plush furniture, all very neat and grand and all to myself. Can you beat it for discomfort at the front? I seem to be fated to always be comfortably situated. There is a wash lady next door, and when I thought I was going to have trouble with my one and only pair of shoes which are almost through, I found a cobbler and borrowed a pair of beautiful high tan shoes from one of the nurses, which nearly kill my poor toes. I explained my plight to the cobbler and he liked me so well that he invited me to sit down and entertain him.

I'm ahead of my story. After finding our houses, one and all we proceeded to the Y.M.C.A. headquarters for this district and they gave us the most wonderful eats we've had for two months. We nearly died - there was so much of it and it was so good. To tell the truth our food has been rotten the last two months and our one bone of contention. They even had a Victrola. We also ate breakfast there the next morning and such a feast!! All of this excitement happened the tenth. Since then we eat our meals, well around the country and await orders. Our meals, except breakfast here, are at

the hospital with French nurses. Theirs is a hospital in tents, only just put up, and they are wonderfully courteous and kind to us. The medicine-chef, who has the highest decorations possible, apologized to us for the fact that things were unsettled and that we had to eat out of tin plates - imagine it! If he could have seen what we had just been eating from! It was so much nicer we could hardly understand what he was driving at - even tablecloths and napkins - whoop!

This afternoon the lost major turned up and gave us the further news that that night after we left the hospital was bombed - nobody hurt - and they hurried to evacuate in the quickest way possible, which was by boat, down the Oise to Agincourt. Even then the avions swooped down and pelted the last boat with shot. Aren't they the devils? That was where our men were all the time. This major is going to Paris to get us our pay. I never have been so poor so hope he gets it and returns O.K.

Haven't the least idea when or how we'll get our mail. We are under an excellent manager so feel perfectly sure things will be settled soon. I imagine we won't stay here for long. The war news seems most favorable today, and our madame has stopped packing - and that's a good sign.

Don't you think I'm pretty lucky to be having all of this interesting kind of duty? Think of the other poor nurses - practically all they do is to make beds and dust. I bet they'll be ready to kill me when I get back. I heard from the nurses here that anyway I was on the third operating team, so probably even if not switched to the second operating team I would have eventually come.

Will send this by French post, trusting you will get it.

All my love,

(Signed) Maude.

The hospital with French nurses. There is a hospital in tents, only just put up, and they are wonderfully courteous and kind to us. The medicine-lab, who has the highest decorations possible, apologized to us for the fact that things were unsettled and that we had to eat out of tin plates - imagine it! If he could have seen what we had just been eating from! It was so much nicer we could hardly understand what he was driving at - even tablecloths and napkins - whoop!

This afternoon the lost major turned up and gave us the further news that that night after we left the hospital was bombed - nobody hurt - and they hurried to evacuate in the quickest way possible, which was by boat, down the Oise to Aincourt. Even then the avions swooped down and killed the last boat with shot. Aren't they the devils? That was where our men were all the time. This major is going to Paris to get us our pay. I never have been so poor so hope he gets it and returns O.K.

Haven't the least idea when or how we'll get our mail. We are under an excellent manager so feel perfectly sure things will be settled soon. I imagine we won't stay here for long. The war news seems most favorable today, and our madame has stopped packing - and that's a good sign.

Don't you think I'm pretty lucky to be having all of this interesting kind of duty? Think of the other poor nurses - practically all they do is to make beds and dust. I bet they'll be ready to kill me when I get back. I heard from the nurses here that anyway I was on the third operating team, so probably even if not switched to the second operating team I would have eventually come.

Will send this by French post, trusting you will get it.

All my love,

(Signed) Manda.



INTERIOR OF NURSES' MESS HALL

U. S. Official



EXTERIOR OF NURSES' MESS HALL



AMERICAN GRAVES IN FRENCH CEMETERY AT TALENCE



GRAVE OF LUCY N. FLETCHER

(Lucy Fletcher)

The funeral went off very well, and in good taste. The service was in the Red Cross Hut, Henry (Capt, Sherrill) made a very good and appropriate address. Dr Cabot lead the choir; O'Neil, Mixter, Oliver Kinnicutt, Clymer, White, Hodgson and Means were the pallbearers. We then marched to the cemetery, Joe Aub in command of a firing squad of infantry first, then Sherrill, then the ambulance with the pall bearers marching along side, after that the rest of the officers and nurses, and finally a large squad of Hospital Corps were commanded by Binger.

1-92=1D10-106/ Superintendent of Prisons

1- School of Prisons

